



FREE! ICE CREAM COUPON WORTH 10¢

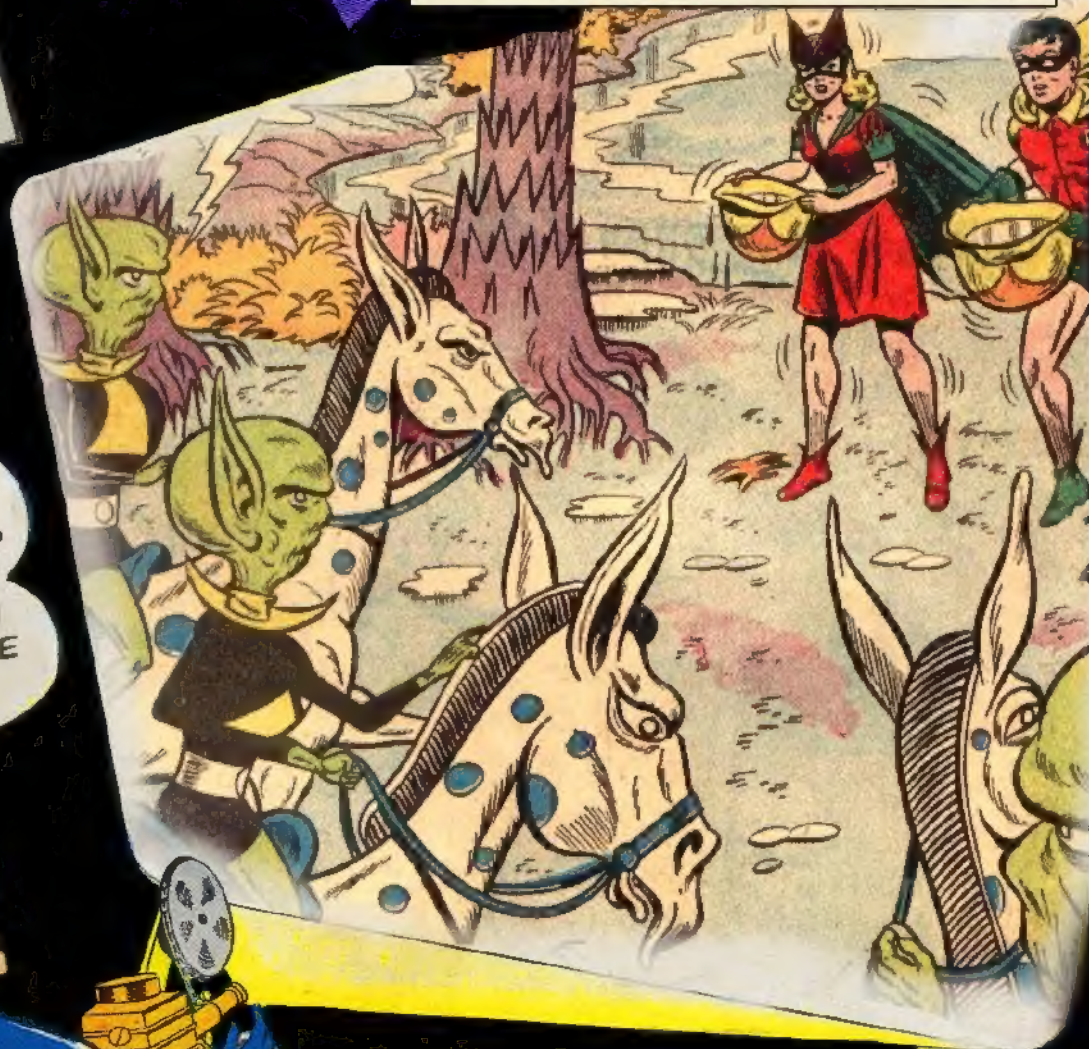
APPROVED  
BY THE  
SPACE  
MEDICINE  
AUTHORITY

# BATMAN

THE FAMED LAWMAN  
ASKS THE BIGGEST  
QUESTION OF HIS LIFE--  
**"AM I Really  
BATMAN?"**

**"THE BLACK CASEBOOK"**

IT WOULD BE FAR  
EASIER TO CONSIDER  
THIS A DREAM... BUT  
HOW CAN I? FOR IN  
MY HAND I HOLD THE  
**BAT-RADIA!**



THE IMPROBABLE CAUSES OF

**R.I.P.**









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# PART ONE

## THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF HEROES

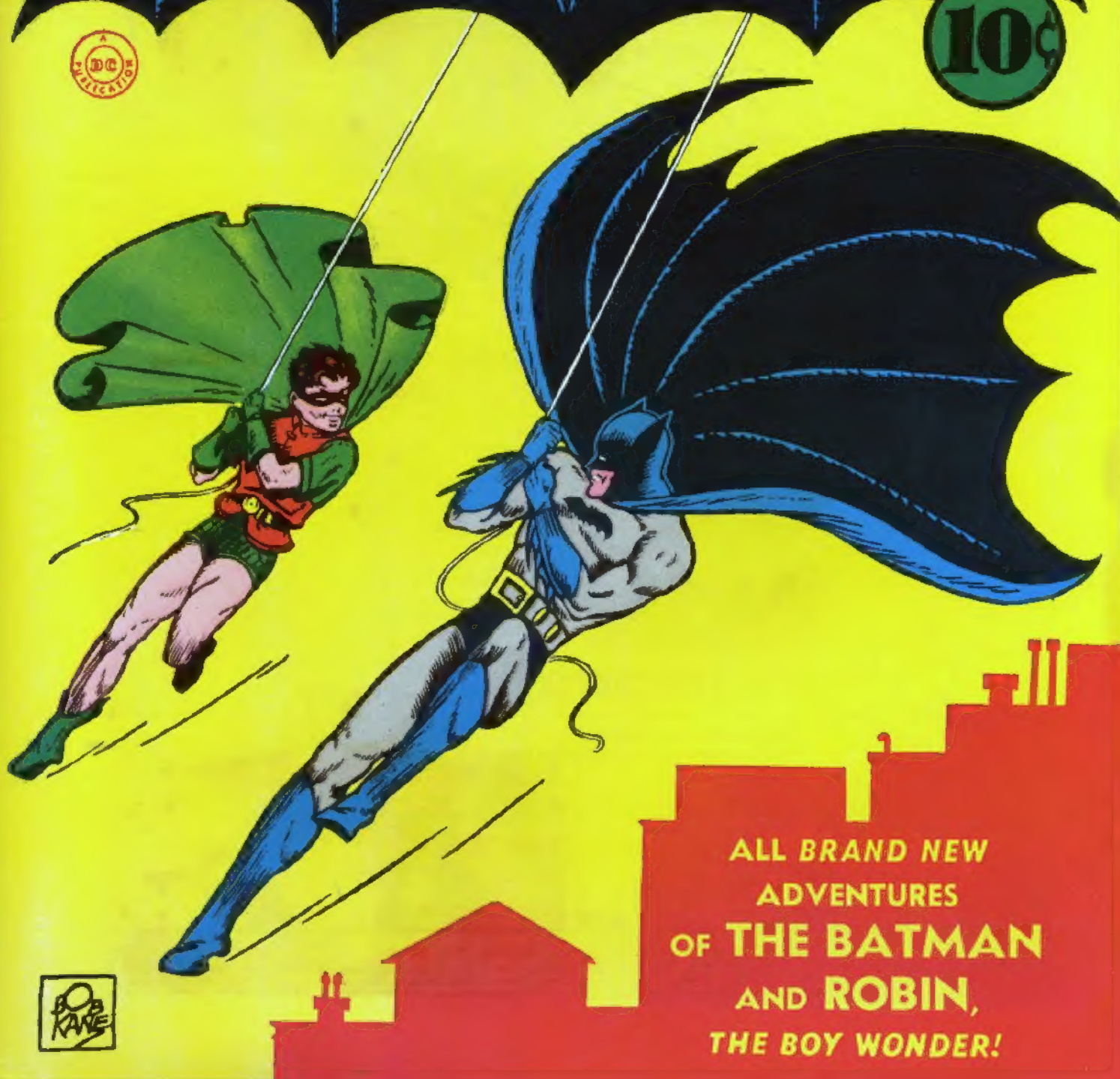


No .1

SPRING ISSUE

# BATMAN

10¢



ALL BRAND NEW  
ADVENTURES  
OF THE BATMAN  
AND ROBIN,  
THE BOY WONDER!





The **LEGEND** of the

# BATMAN

by **BOB KANE**

— WHO HE IS  
AND HOW HE  
CAME TO BE!

ONE NIGHT SOME FIFTEEN  
YEARS AGO, THOMAS WAYNE,  
HIS WIFE AND HIS SON WERE  
WALKING HOME FROM A MOVIE...

W. WHAT  
IS THIS?

A STICKUP BUDDY!  
I'LL TAKE THAT NECK  
LACE YOU'RE  
WEARIN' LADY!

LEAVE HER  
ALONE, YOU!  
OH.....

YOU  
ASKED  
FOR IT!

THOMAS! YOU'VE  
KILLED HIM. HELP!  
POLICE... HELP!

THIS'LL SHUT  
YOU UP!



THE BOY'S EYES ARE WIDE WITH TERROR AND SHOCK AS THE HORRIBLE SCENE IS SPREAD BEFORE HIM.



FATHER... MOTHER!

... DEAD!  
THEY'RE  
O. DEAD



DAYS LATER, A CURIOUS AND STRANGE SCENE TAKES PLACE.

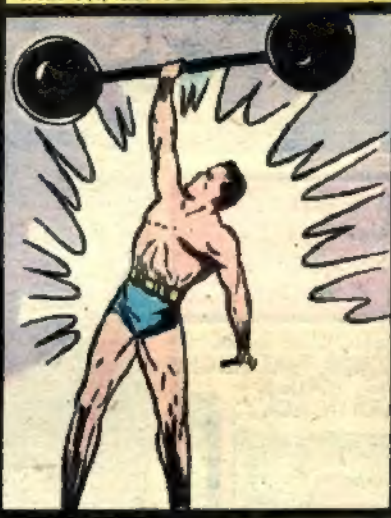
AND I SWEAR BY THE SPIRITS OF MY PARENTS TO AVENGE THEIR DEATHS BY SPENDING THE REST OF MY LIFE WARRING ON ALL CRIMINALS



AS THE YEARS PASS BRUCE WAYNE PREPARES HIMSELF FOR HIS CAREER. HE BECOMES A MASTER SCIENTIST.



TRAINS HIS BODY TO PHYSICAL PERFECTION UNTIL HE IS ABLE TO PERFORM AMAZING ATHLETIC FEATS.



DAD'S ESTATE LEFT ME WEALTHY. I AM READY.. BUT FIRST I MUST HAVE A DISGUISE.



CRIMINALS ARE A SUPERSTITIOUS COWARDLY LOT, SOMY DISGUISE MUST BE ABLE TO STRIKE TERROR INTO THEIR HEARTS. I MUST BE A CREATURE OF THE NIGHT, BLACK, TERRIBLE... A A.



AS IF IN ANSWER, A HUGE BAT FLIES IN THE OPEN WINDOW!



A BAT! THAT'S IT! IT'S AN OMEN.. I SHALL BECOME A BAT!

AND THIS IS BORN THIS WEIRD FIGURE OF THE DARK.. THIS AVENGER OF EVIL.. THE BATMAN







DEC. JAN.  
NO. 62

52 BIG PAGES

10¢



# BATMAN

**CATWOMAN  
RETURNS!**

**BATMAN'S  
FELINE FOE IN A  
DARING NEW ROLE!**

*Exposing for the First Time  
"The Secret Life of  
the Catwoman!"*







BATMAN



# BATMAN

WITH  
**ROBIN**  
- THE BOY WONDER -

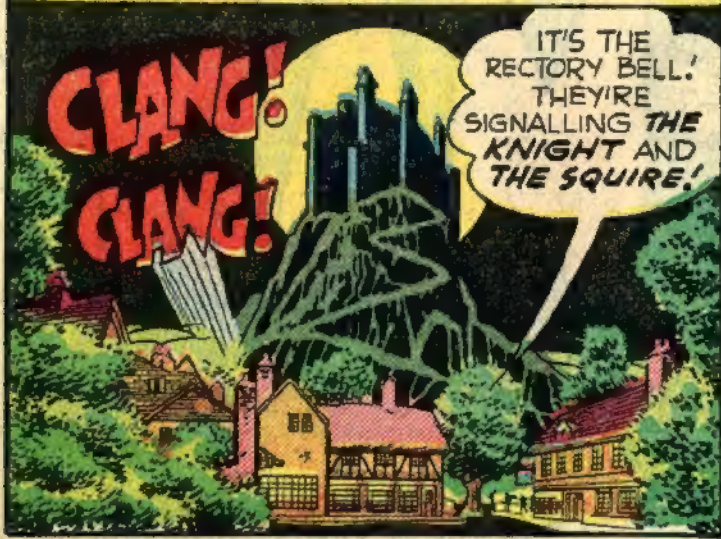
WHEN TWO ADMIRERS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN, IN FARAWAY ENGLAND, DECIDE TO FIGHT CRIME LIKE THEIR AMERICAN HEROES, THEY LITTLE DREAM WHAT DEADLY DANGERS AWAIT THEM. FOR THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE, AS THE BRITISH VERSION OF THE DYNAMIC DUO CALLS ITSELF, ARE DESTINED TO FIGHT THE CLEVEREST CRIMINALS OF TWO CONTINENTS! YOU'LL READ ALL ABOUT IT IN --

**"The BATMAN of ENGLAND!"**

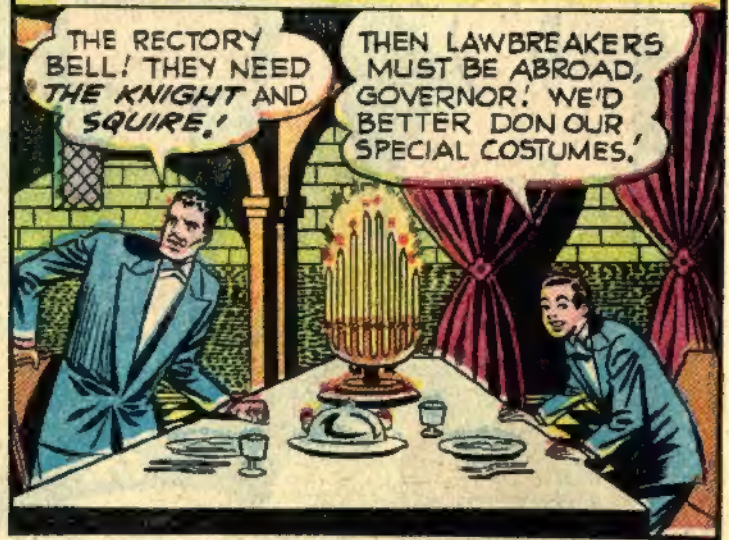




OUTSIDE THE QUIET VILLAGE OF WORDENSHIRE, ENGLAND, RESOUNDS A CLANGOROUS BELL TOLLING AN URGENT SUMMONS!



THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE? WHO ARE THEY? THE EARL OF WORDENSHIRE AND HIS SON CYRIL SEEM TO KNOW!



HASTENING DOWN TO ONE OF THE SHADOWY CRYPTS BENEATH THE OLD CASTLE...



PRESENTLY, TWO MASKED MEDIEVAL FIGURES ROAR OUT BY A SECRET PASSAGE, ON "WAR HORSES" THAT ARE REALLY POWERFUL MOTORCYCLES!



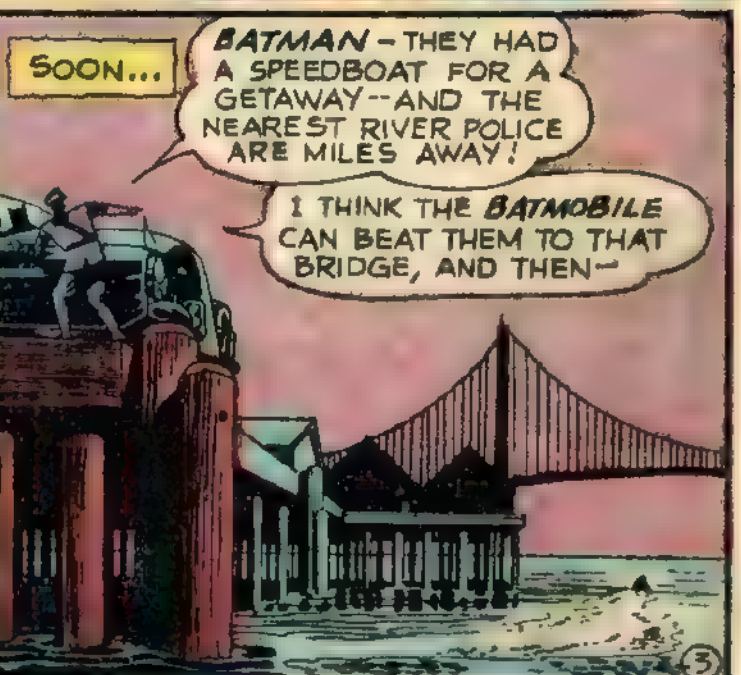
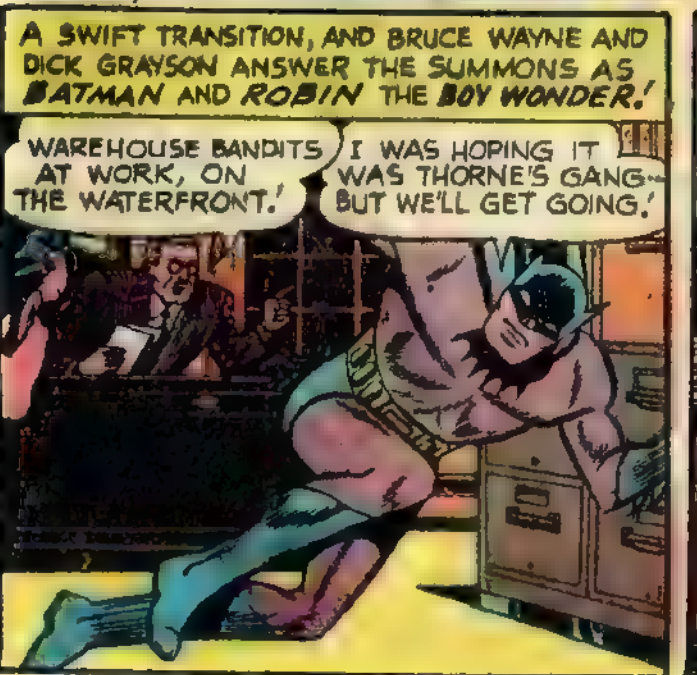
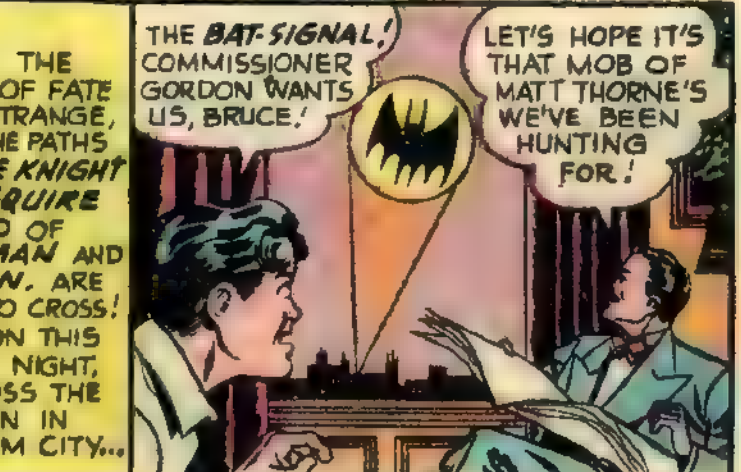
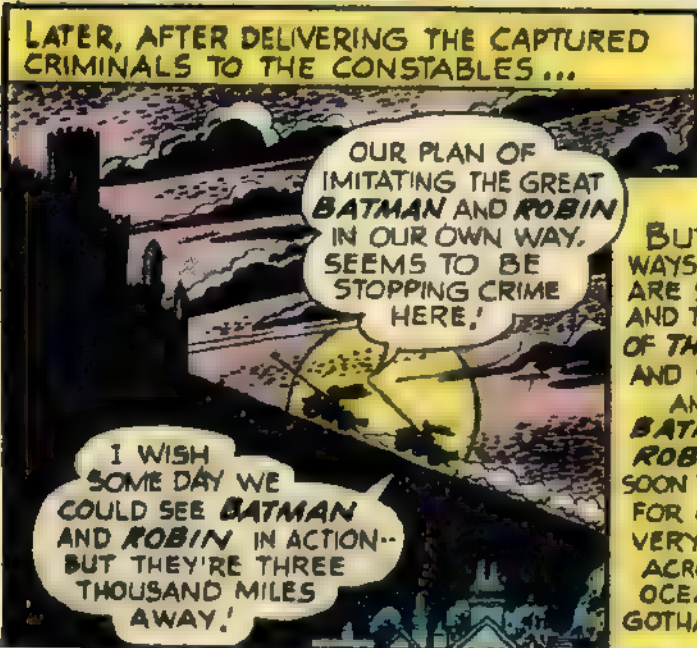
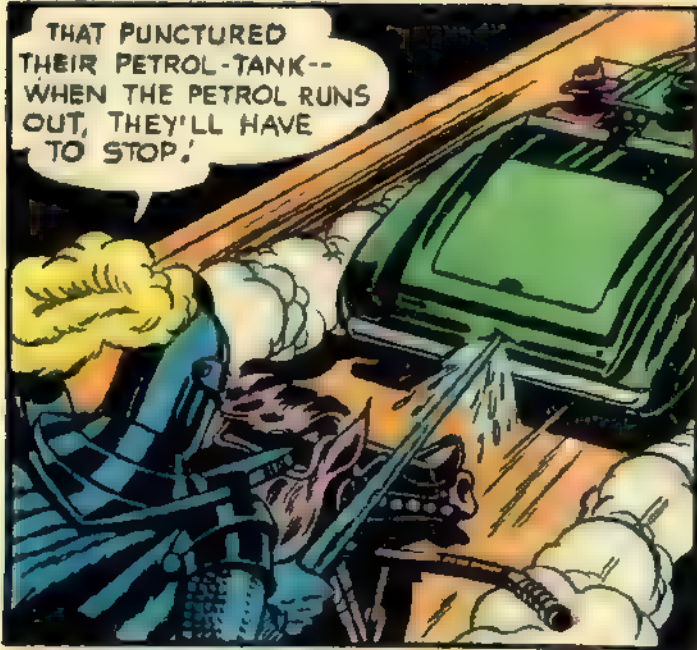
THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE—AN ENGLISH IMITATION OF THE DYNAMIC DUO! AND JUST AS A SQUIRE OF OLD ASSISTED HIS KNIGHT, THIS SQUIRE ASSISTS HIS FATHER IN CRUSHING CRIME!



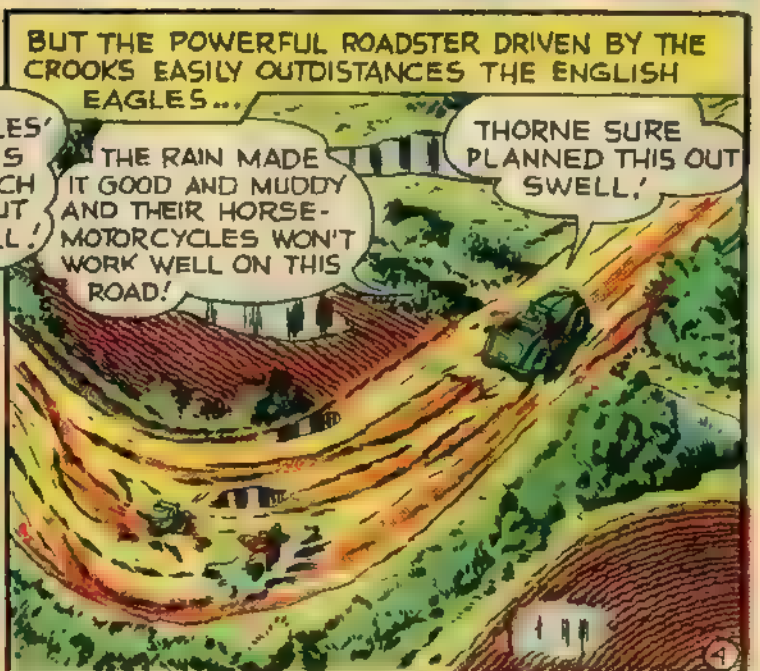
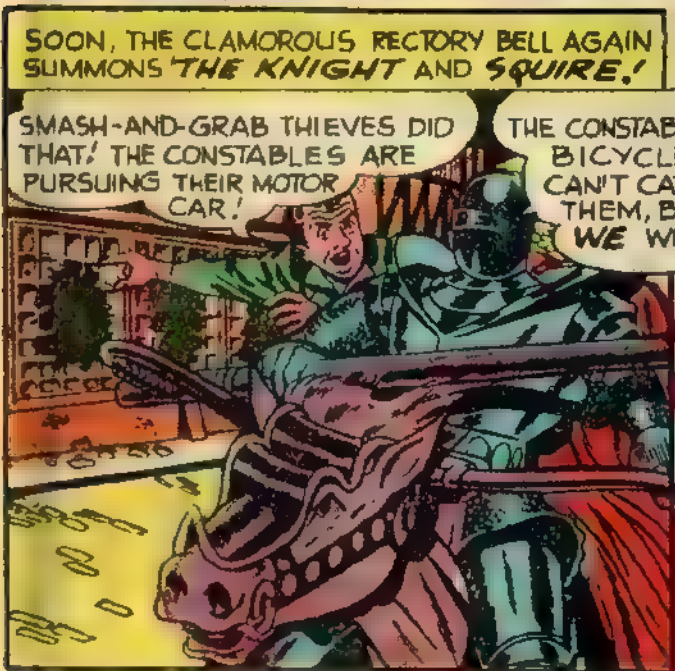
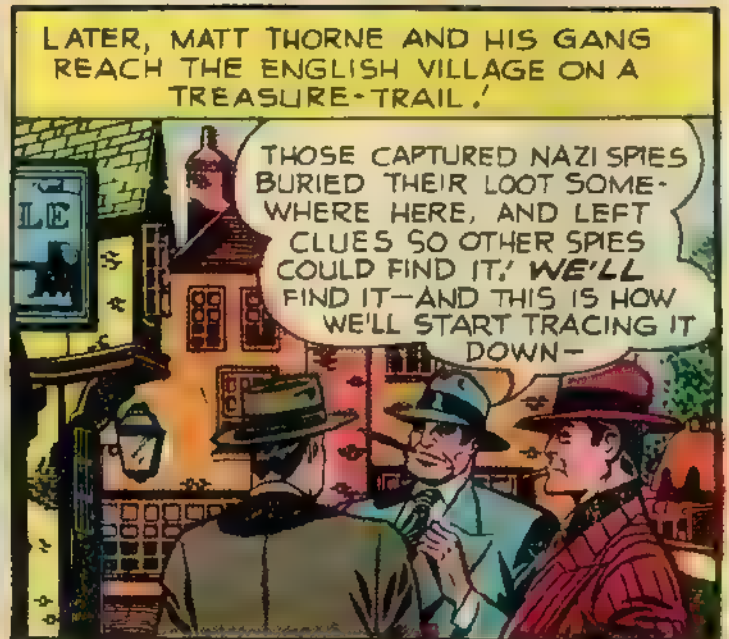
MOMENTS LATER, AFTER A SWIFT PURSUIT...



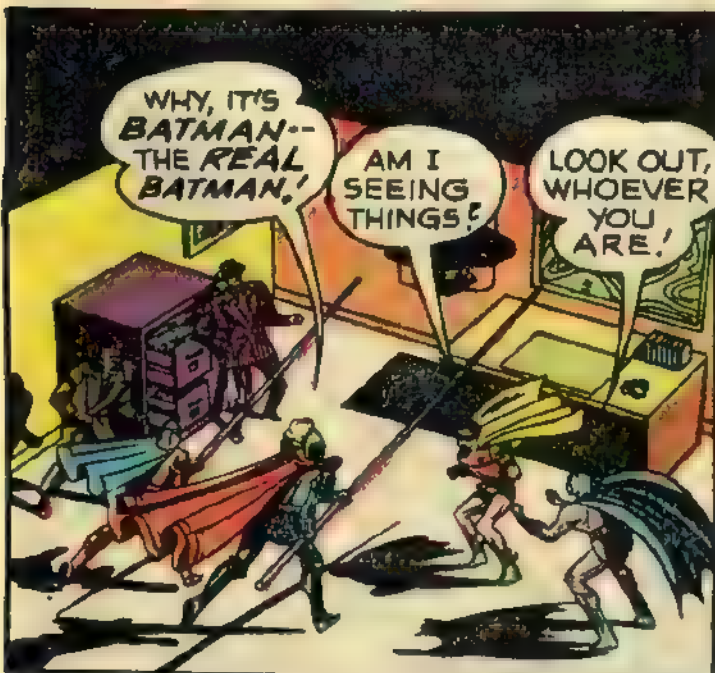
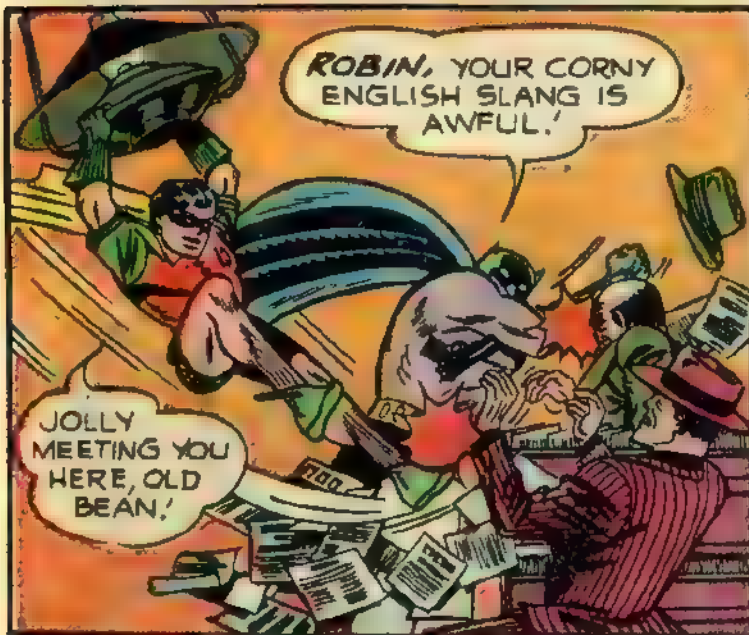
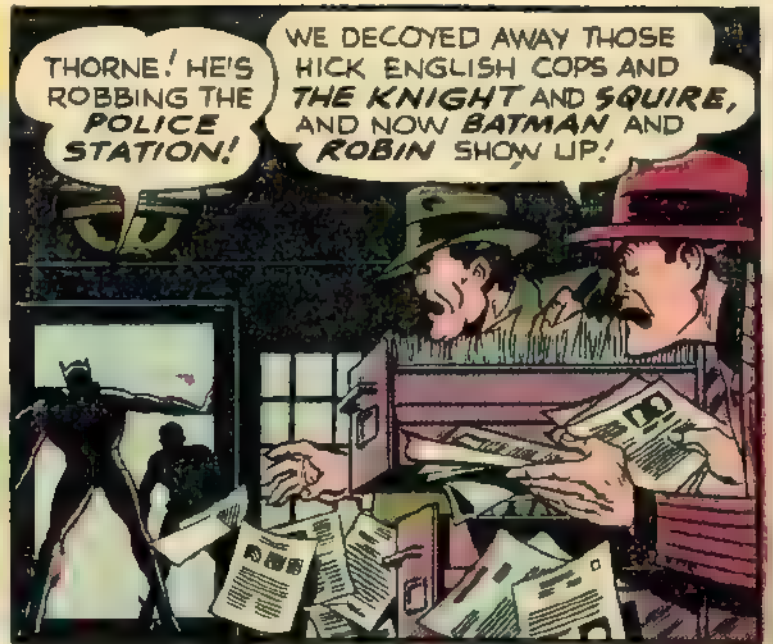
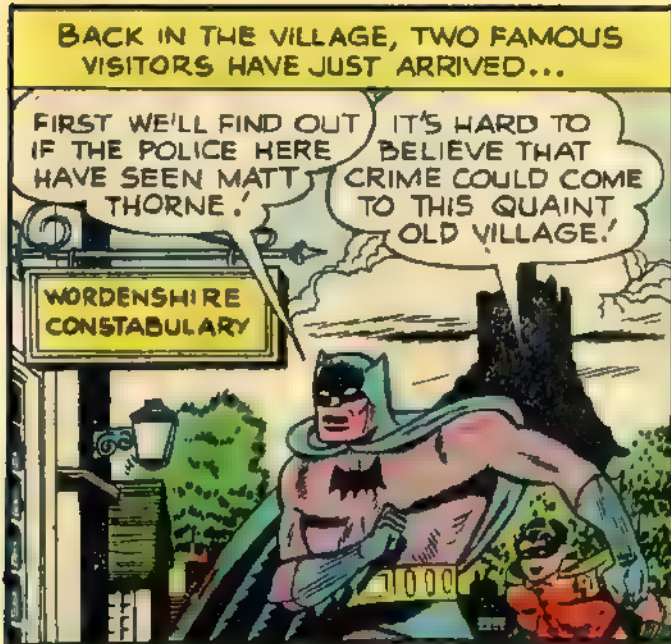




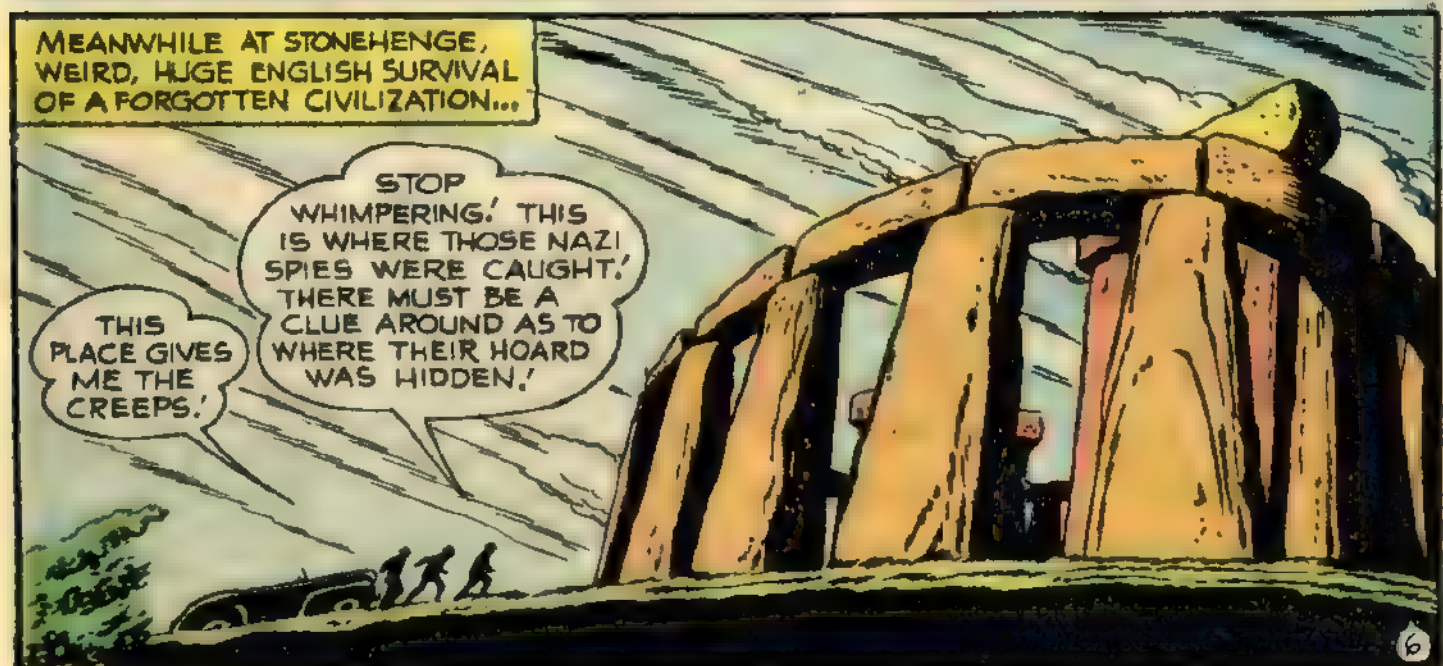
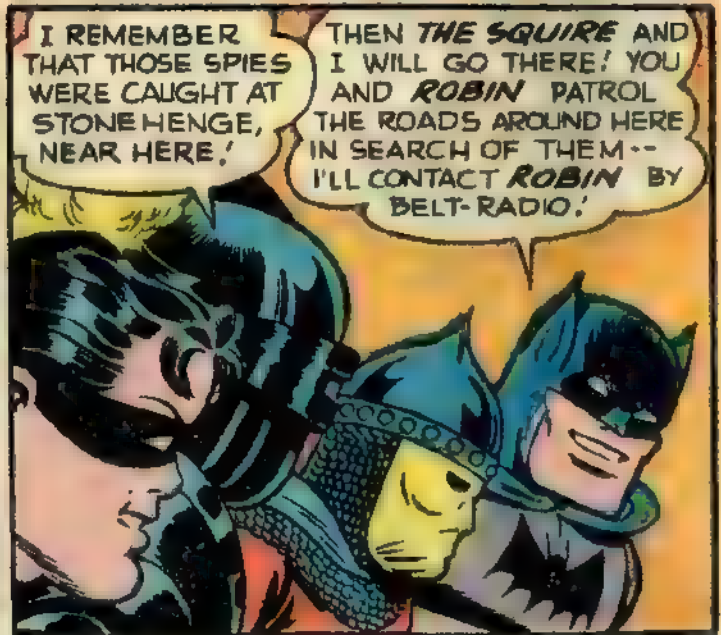
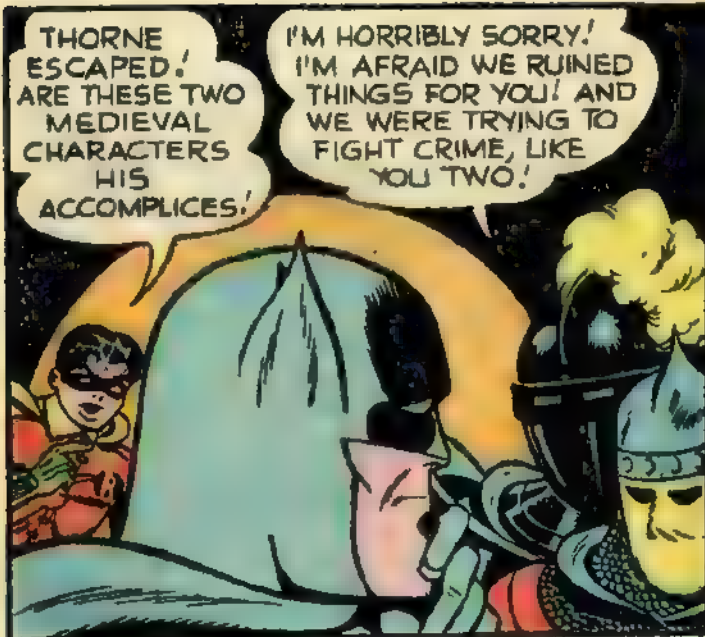




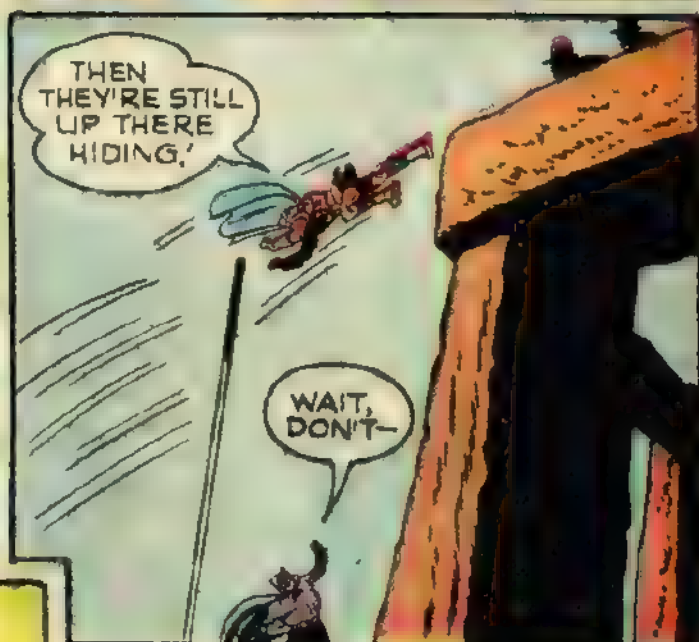
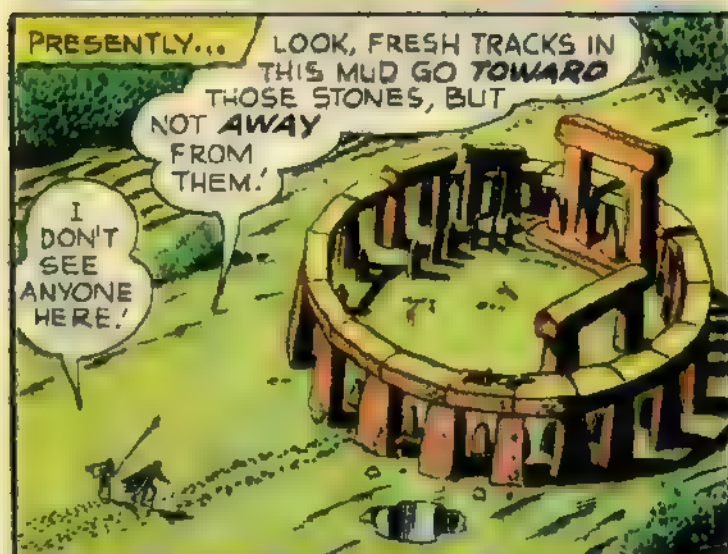
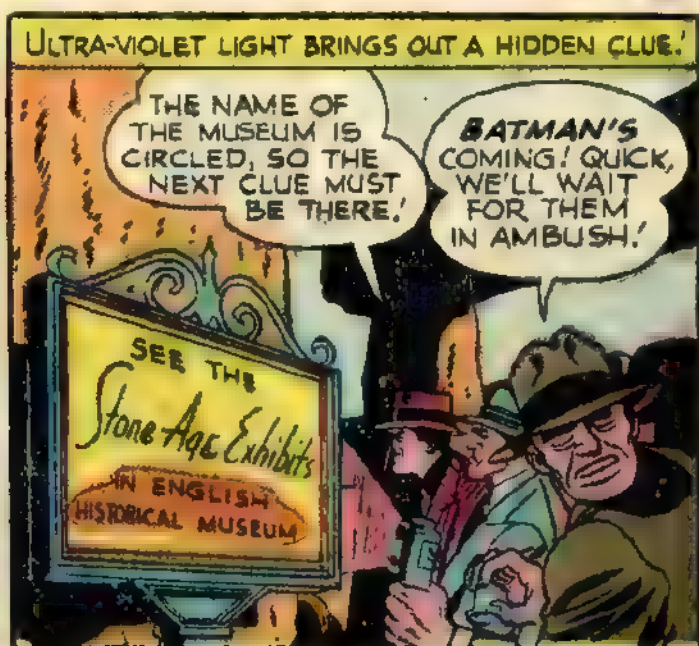
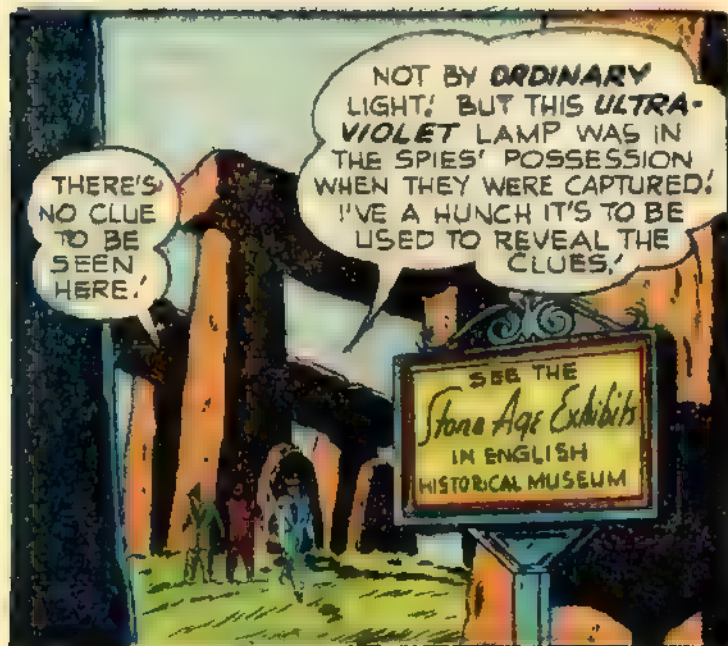




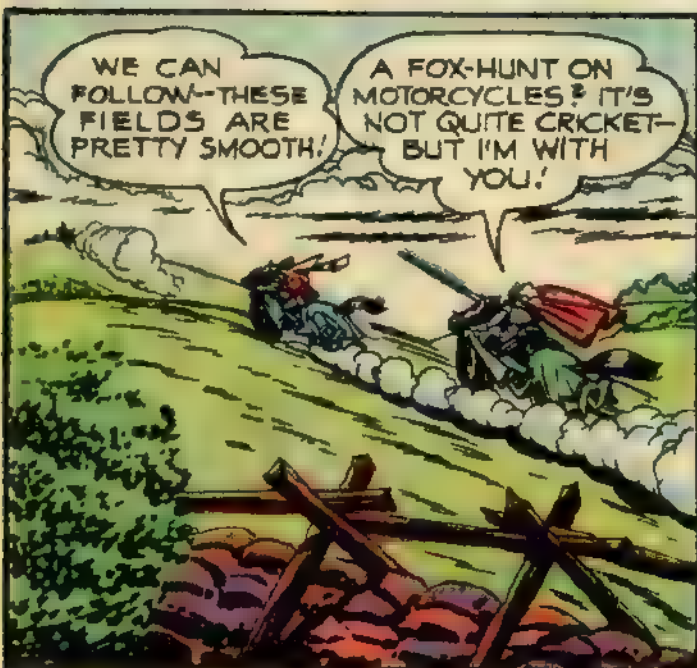
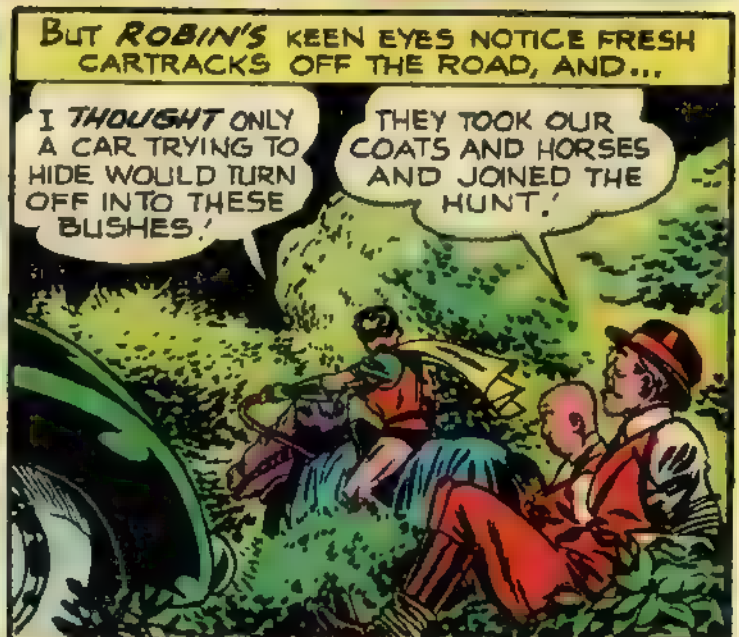
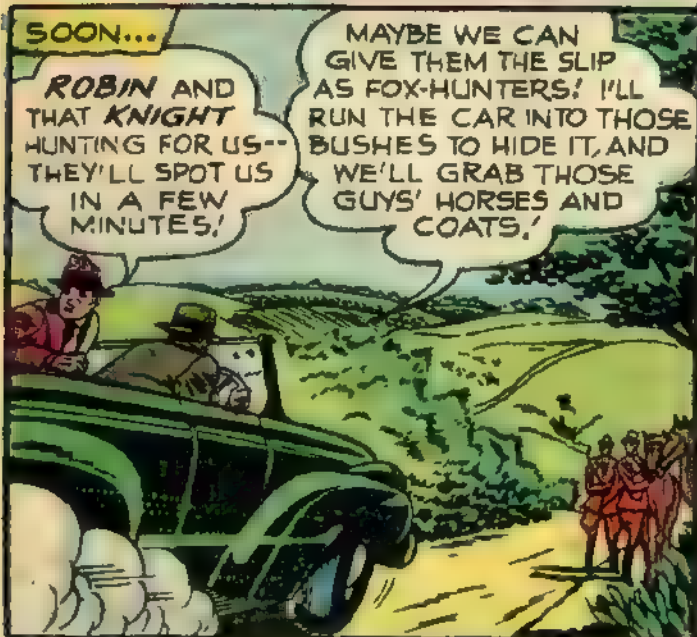
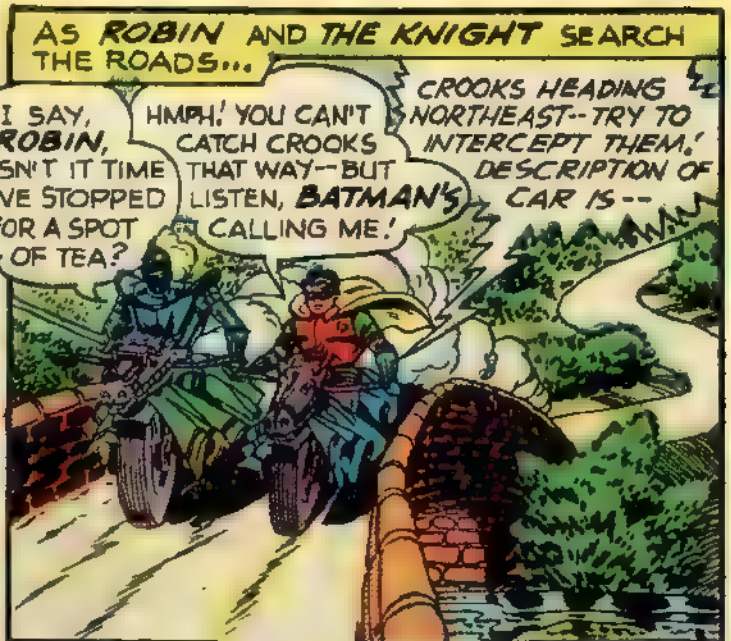
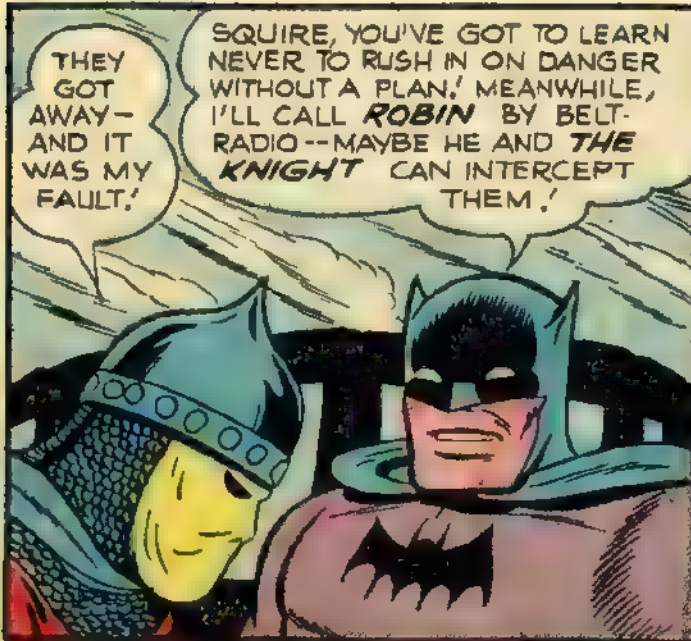




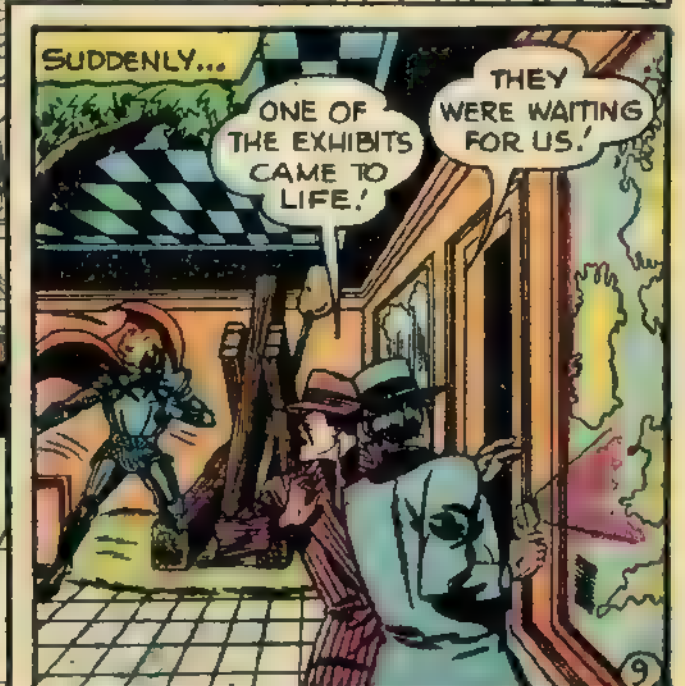
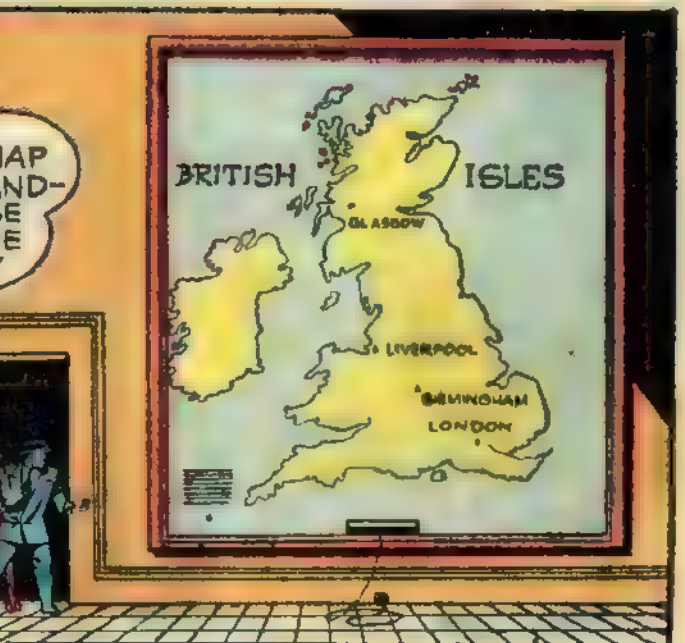
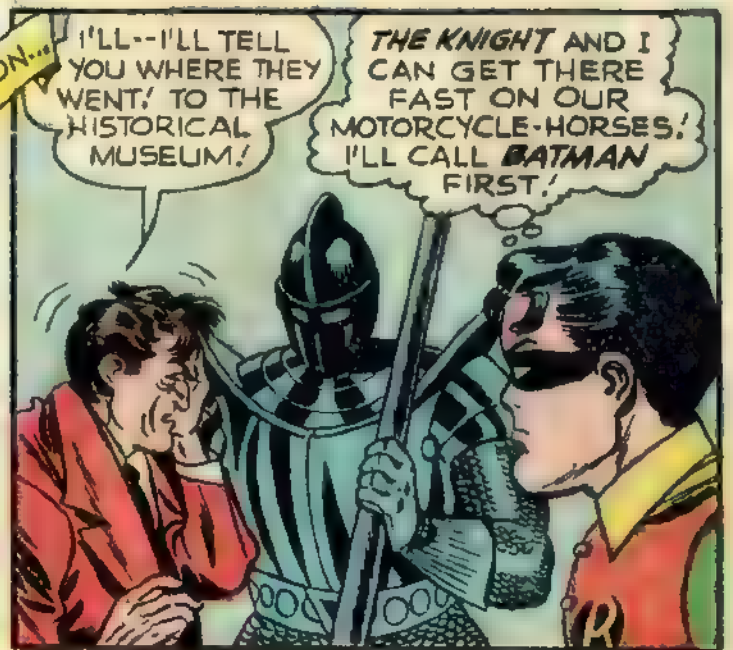
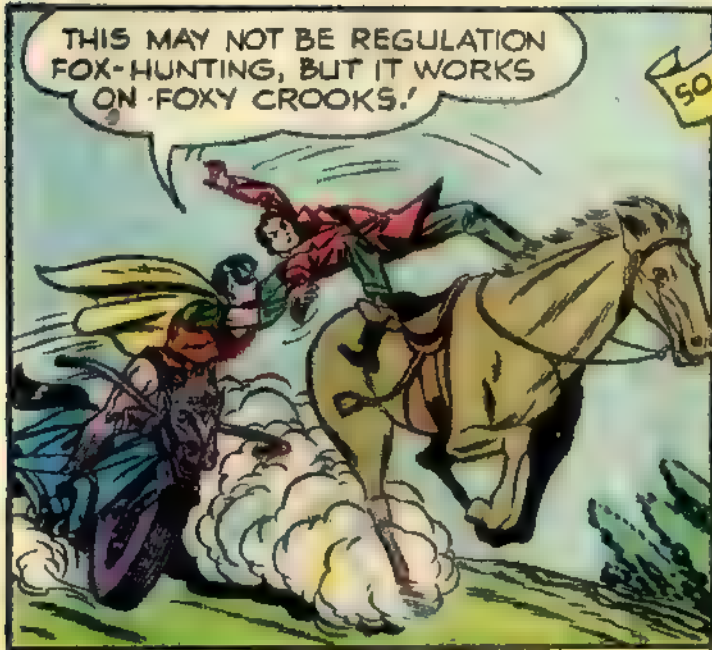




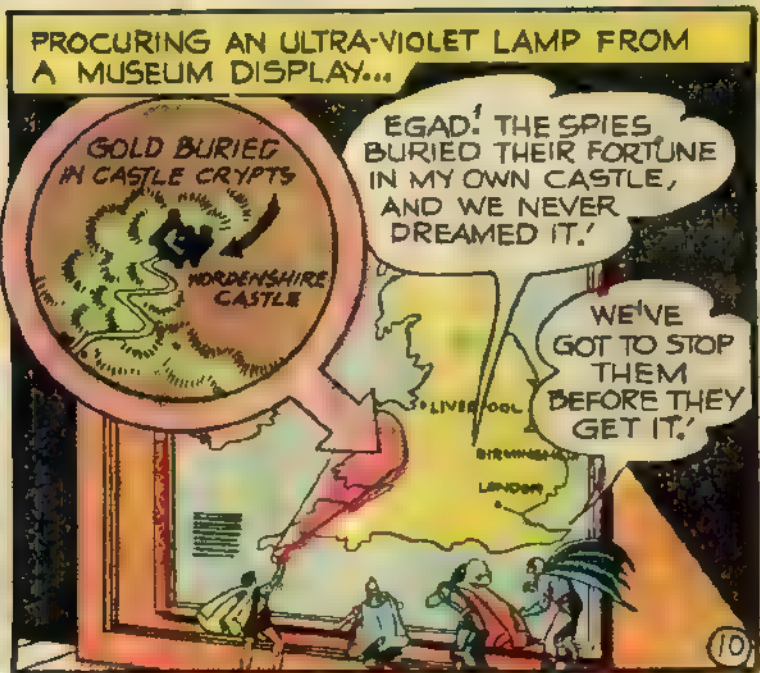
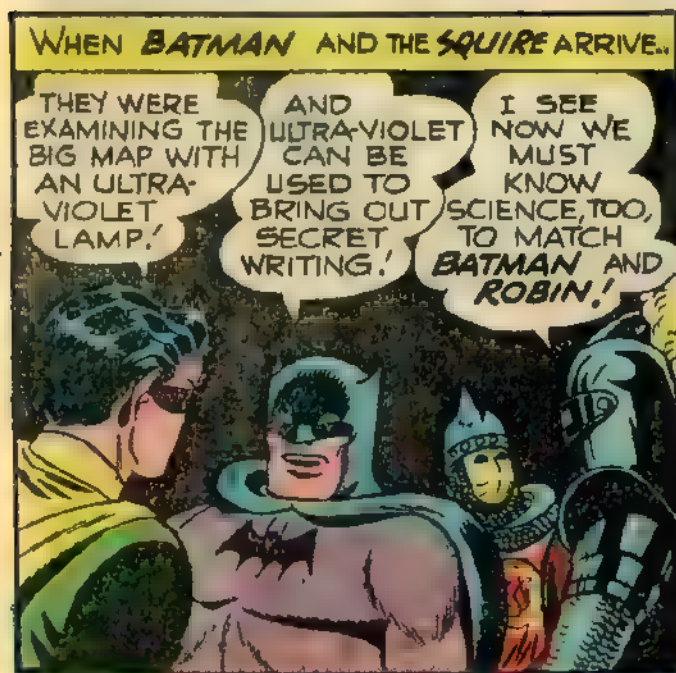
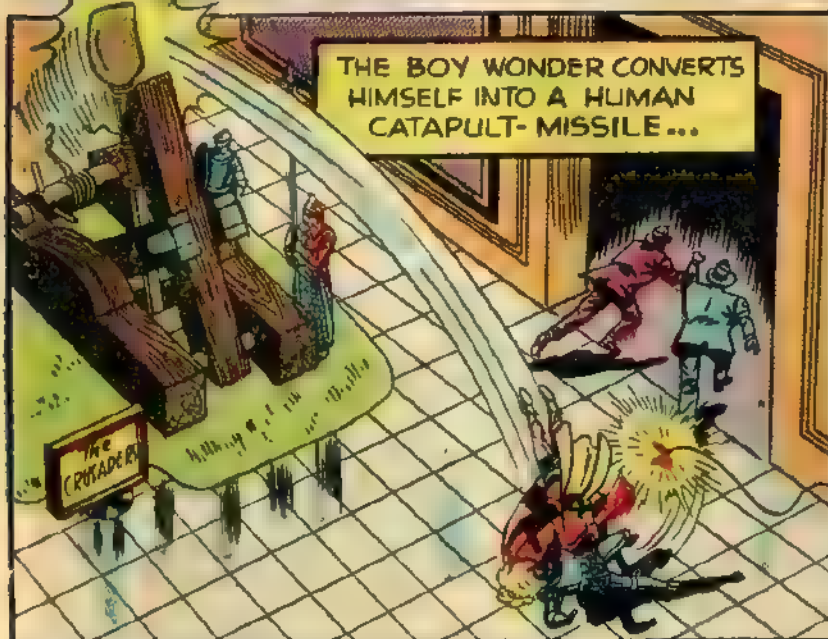
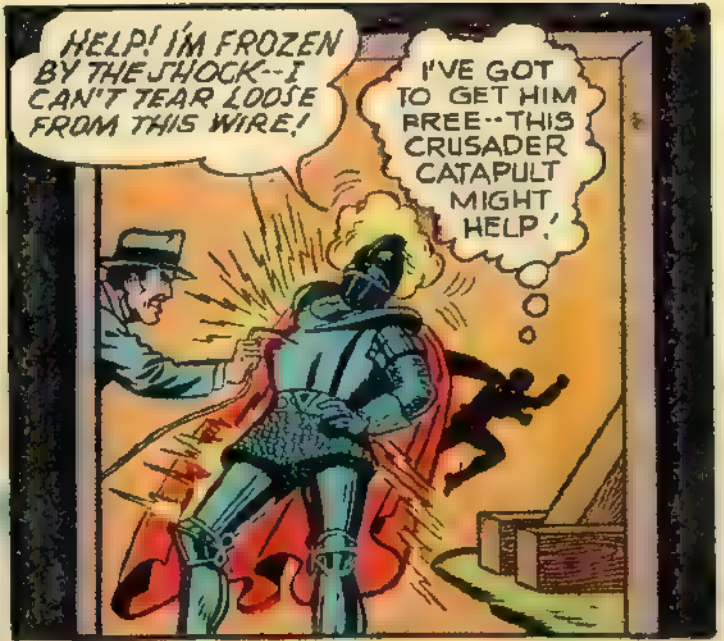
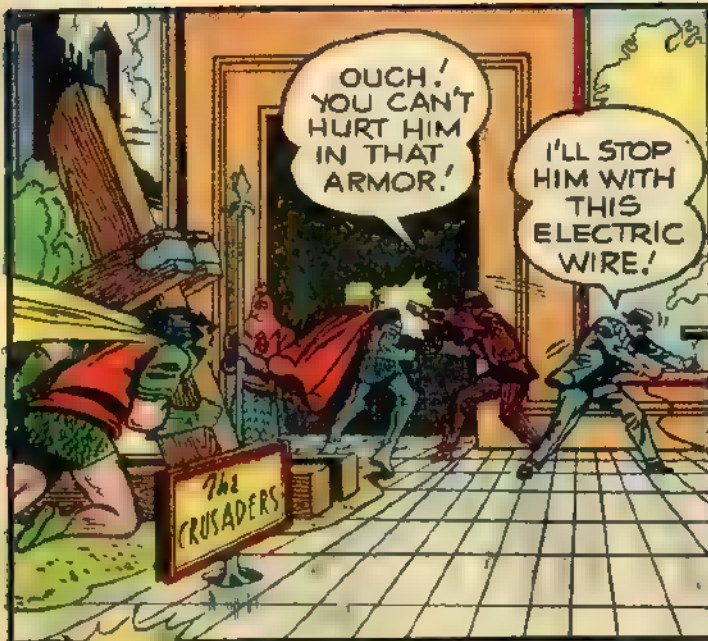




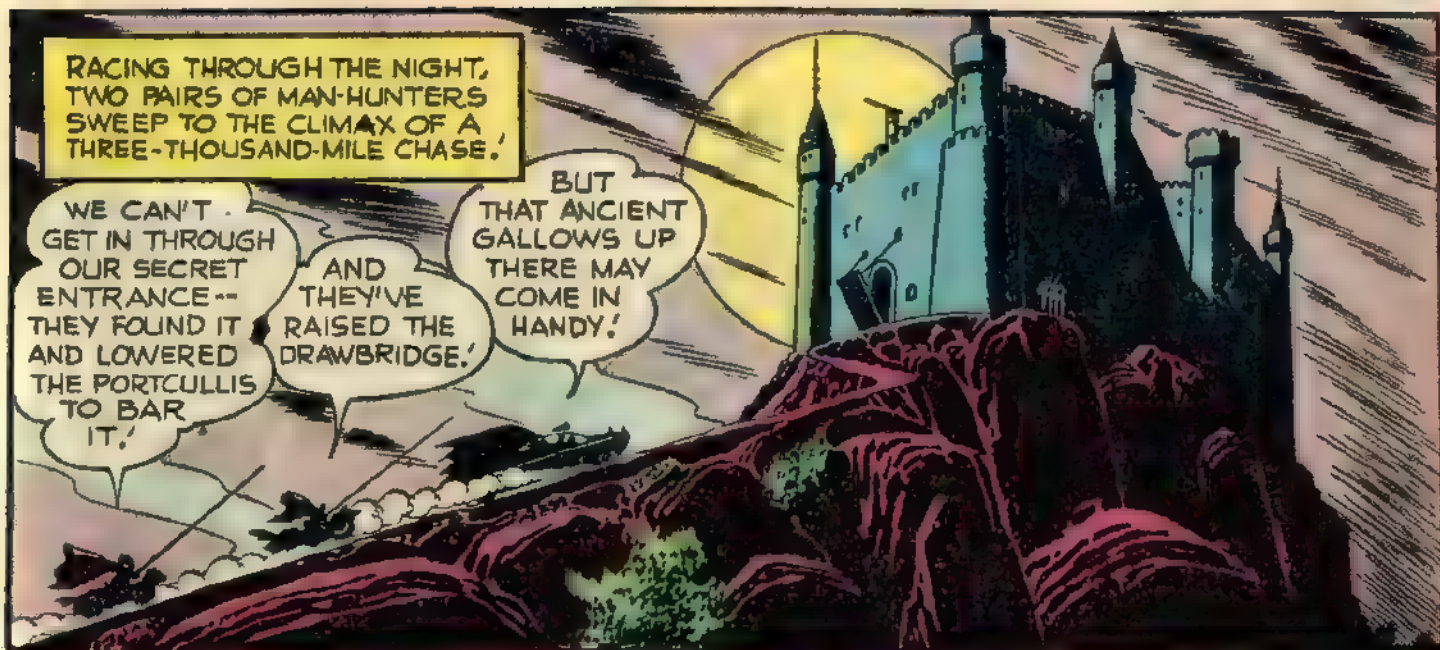










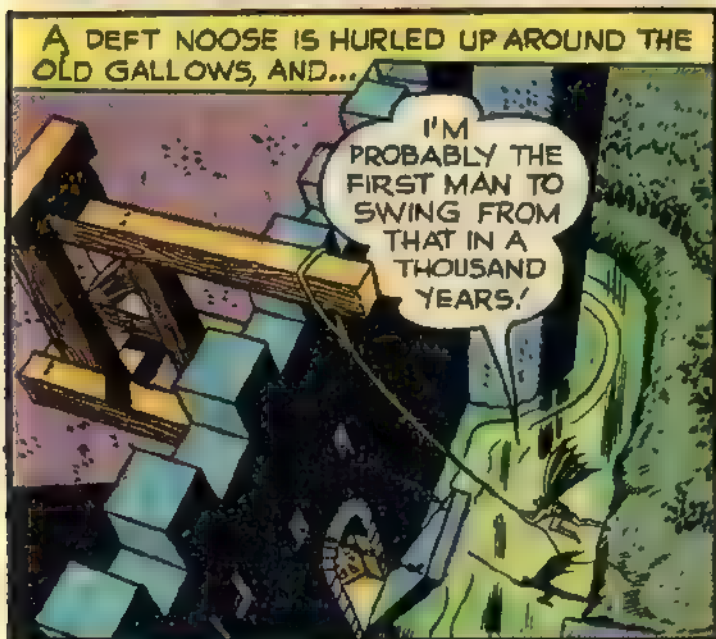


RACING THROUGH THE NIGHT, TWO PAIRS OF MAN-HUNTERS SWEEP TO THE CLIMAX OF A THREE-THOUSAND-MILE CHASE!

WE CAN'T GET IN THROUGH OUR SECRET ENTRANCE-- THEY FOUND IT AND LOWERED THE PORTCULLIS TO BAR IT!

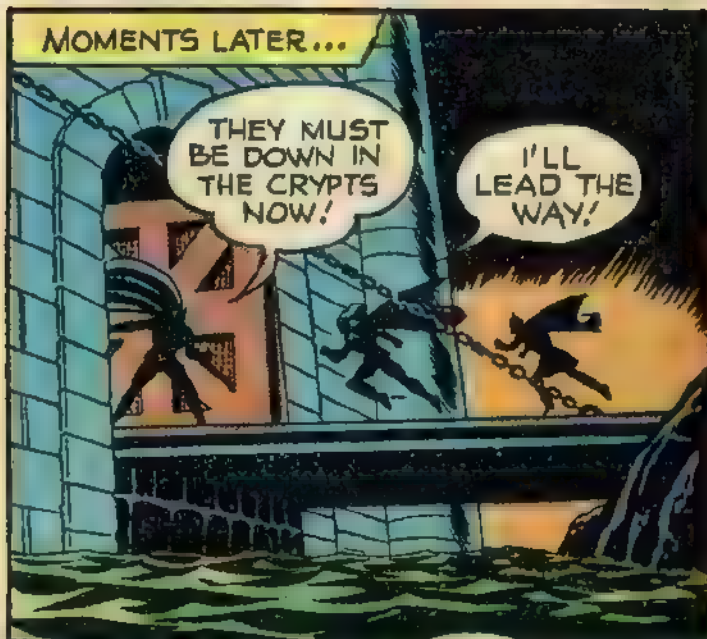
AND THEY'VE RAISED THE DRAWBRIDGE!

BUT THAT ANCIENT GALLOWES UP THERE MAY COME IN HANDY!



A DEFT NOOSE IS HURLED UP AROUND THE OLD GALLOWES, AND...

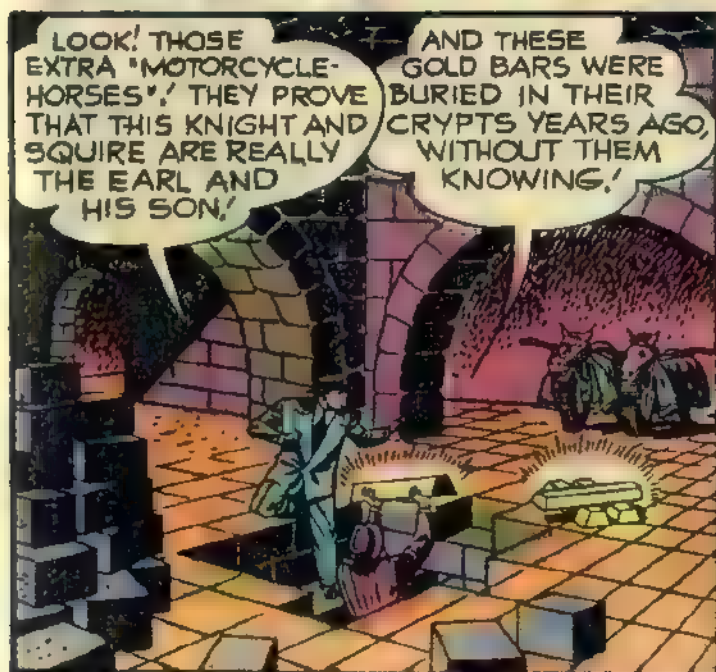
I'M PROBABLY THE FIRST MAN TO SWING FROM THAT IN A THOUSAND YEARS!



MOMENTS LATER...

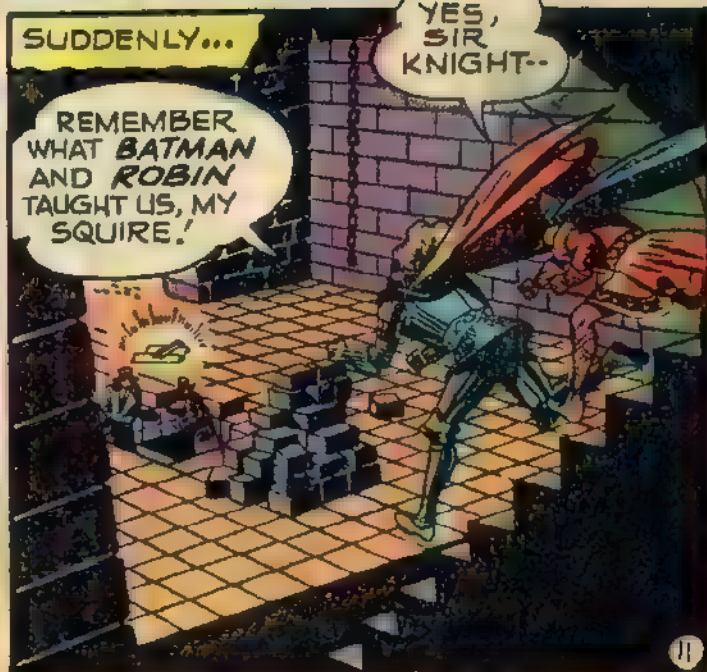
THEY MUST BE DOWN IN THE CRYPTS NOW!

I'LL LEAD THE WAY!



LOOK! THOSE EXTRA "MOTORCYCLE-HORSES"! THEY PROVE THAT THIS KNIGHT AND SQUIRE ARE REALLY THE EARL AND HIS SON!

AND THESE GOLD BARS WERE BURIED IN THEIR CRYPTS YEARS AGO, WITHOUT THEM KNOWING!

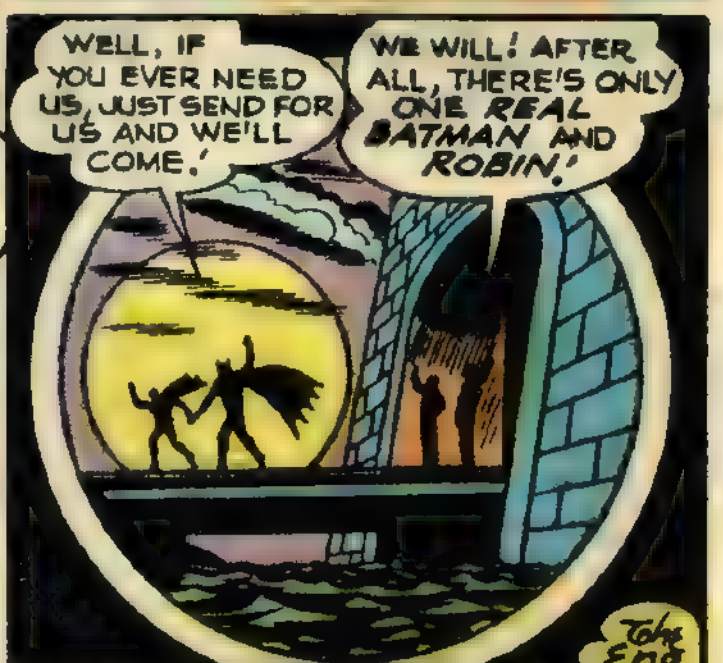
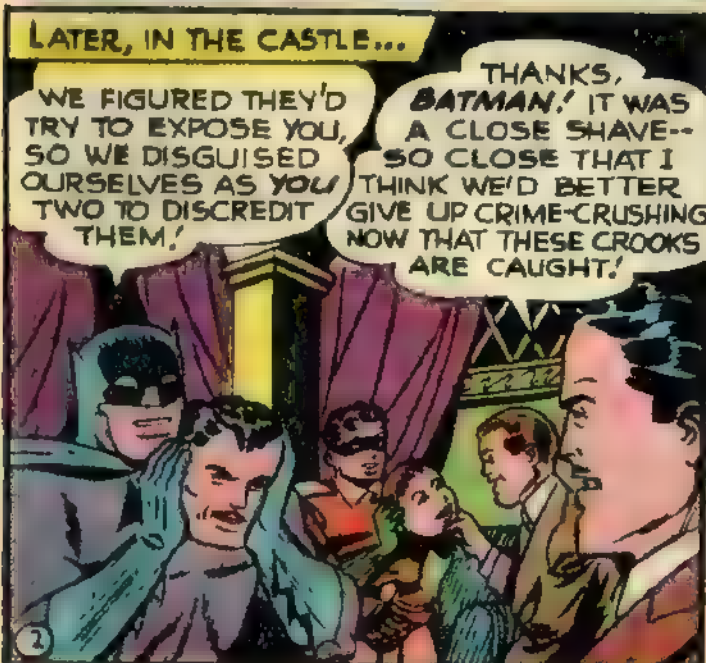
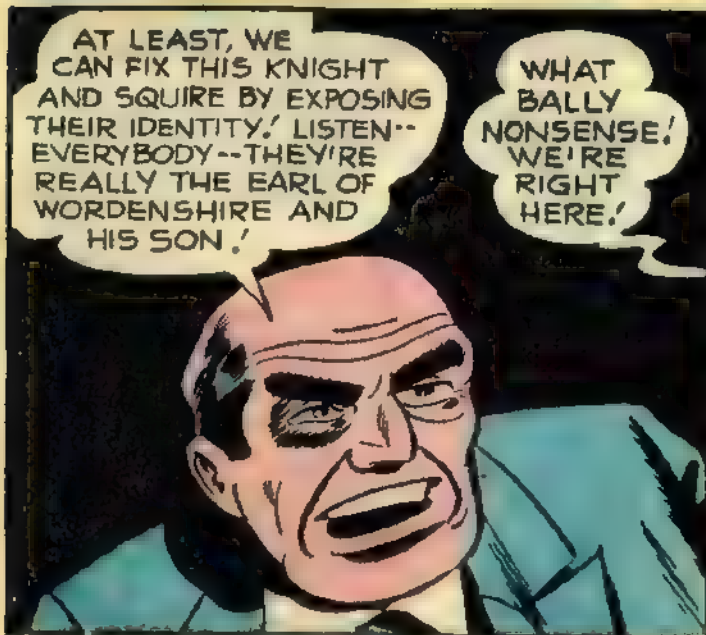
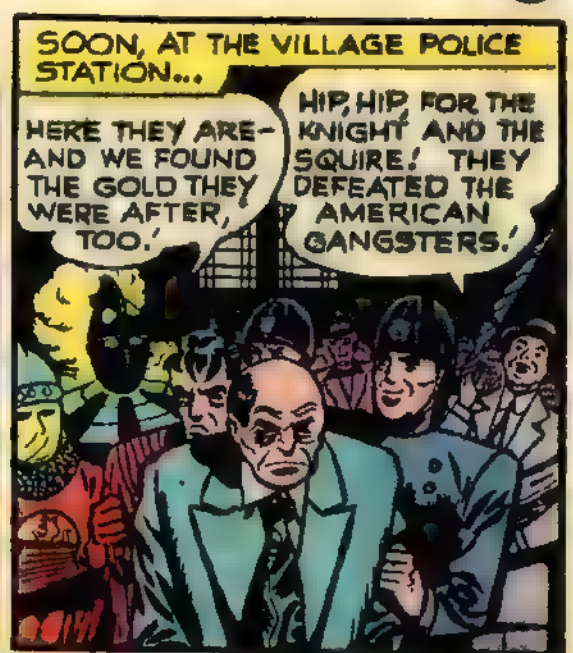
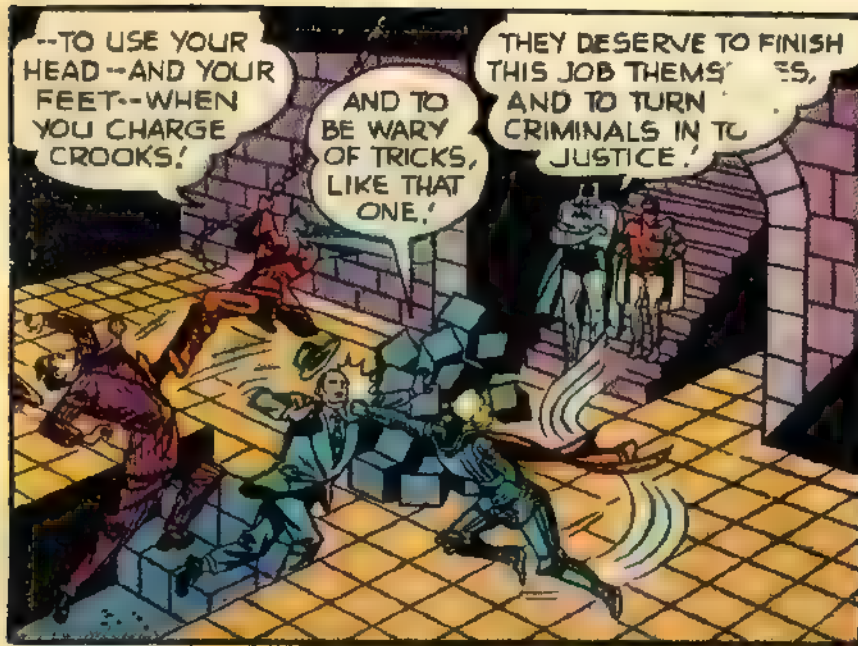


SUDDENLY...

REMEMBER WHAT BATMAN AND ROBIN TAUGHT US, MY SQUIRE!

YES, SIR, KNIGHT--





MORE BATTLING BATMAN AND ROBIN STORIES IN DETECTIVE COMICS AND WORLD'S FINEST COMICS NOW ON SALE





52 BIG PAGES



# BATMAN

Is your CATWOMAN  
AN ALY OF THE  
DYNAMIC DUO  
IN THE NEW  
SERIES OF COMICS  
FROM THE  
NATIONAL CITY PUBL.

"THE  
Empress  
of the  
Underworld!"







BATMAN



# BATMAN

## ROBIN

THE BOY WONDER

FOR MANY YEARS, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** HAVE FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE THROUGH THE THICK AND THIN OF BATTLES AGAINST CRIME. CAN IT BE THAT AT LONG LAST THE PARTNERSHIP IS TO BE DISSOLVED?!! WHO IS THIS **WINGMAN** WHO SOARS THROUGH THE NIGHT AS **BATMAN'S** NEW ALLY--DOING THE JOBS THAT **ROBIN** ONCE DID?!! THE SURPRISING ANSWERS ARE ALL HERE-- IN THE TENSE STORY CALLED--

### "A Partner for BATMAN!"

by  
**BOB KANE**

BUT WHERE'S **ROBIN**?!!

WHO NEEDS **ROBIN**?  
**BATMAN'S** GOT **WINGMAN** NOW!





ONE NIGHT, IN A GOTHAM CITY SHIPYARD, AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER PATROL THE SLEEPING METROPO-  
LIS...

LOOK--THERE'S THE  
DEXTER GANG! THEY'RE  
CLIMBING THAT ROPE  
LADDER!

THEY'VE MADE A  
MISTAKE! WE CAN TRAP  
THEM ON THE DECK OF  
THAT HULL, **ROBIN**-- I  
KNOW A FASTER WAY  
OF GETTING UP  
THERE!

THIS IS  
A NICE, **HANDY**  
WAY TO  
TRAVEL!

WE'LL ATTACK  
THEM HEAD-ON!  
THEY'LL NEVER  
KNOW WHAT  
HIT THEM!

AND, A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

THIS IS  
THE END OF  
THE DEXTER  
GANG!

**BATMAN**  
AND **ROBIN**!  
HOW'D THEY GET  
HERE SO FAST!

IN A BRIEF BUT FURIOUS STRUGGLE,  
**BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** OVERCOME THEIR  
OPPONENTS. THEN...

I'LL TIE THEM UP!  
**ROBIN**, GET DOWN TO  
A PHONE AND CALL  
THE POLICE.

RIGHT!

BUT IN HIS EAGERNESS,  
THE BOY WONDER FAILS  
TO SEE A SPOT OF OIL-  
SLICK ON THE DECK, AND...

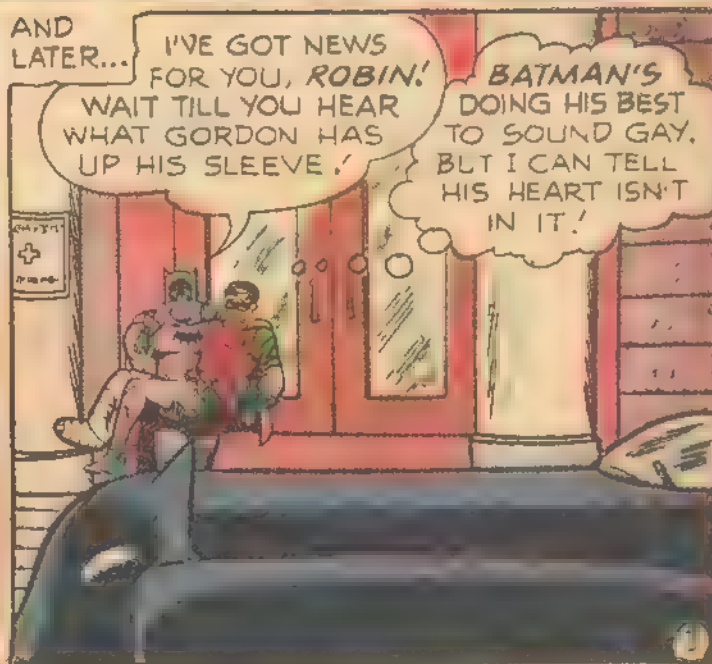
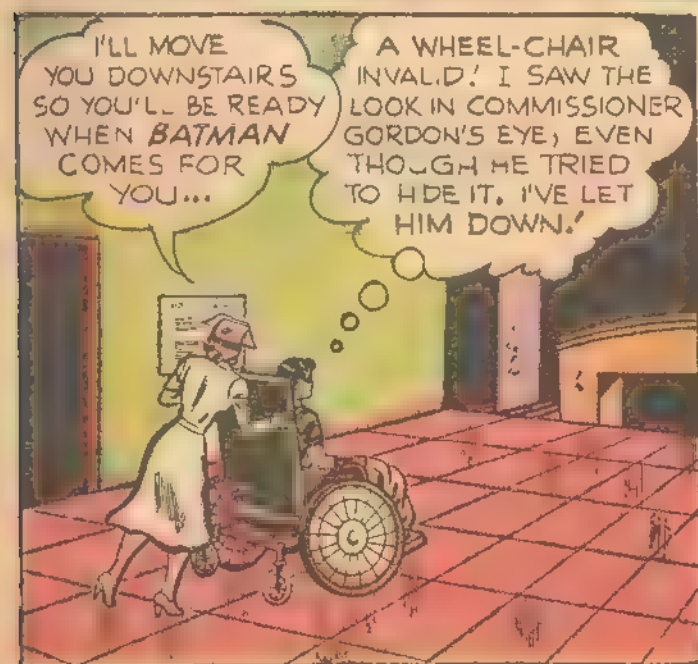
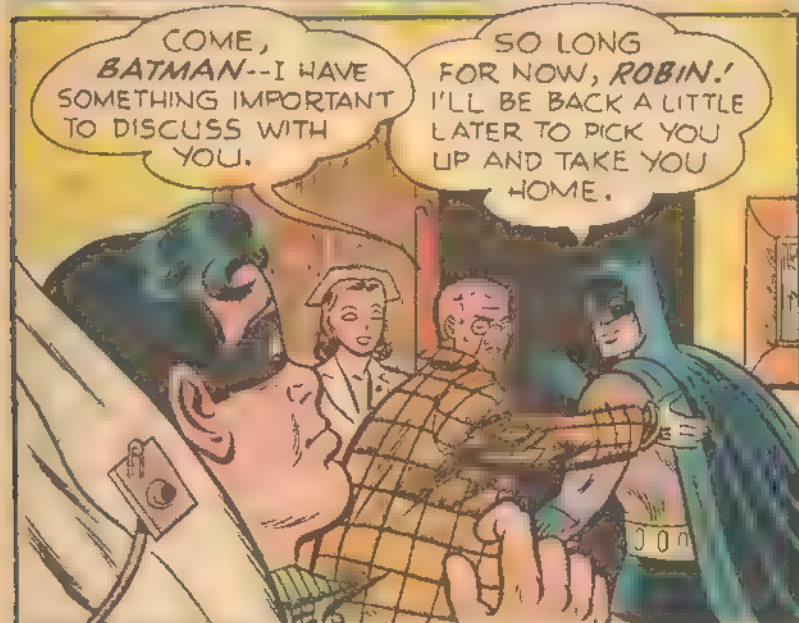
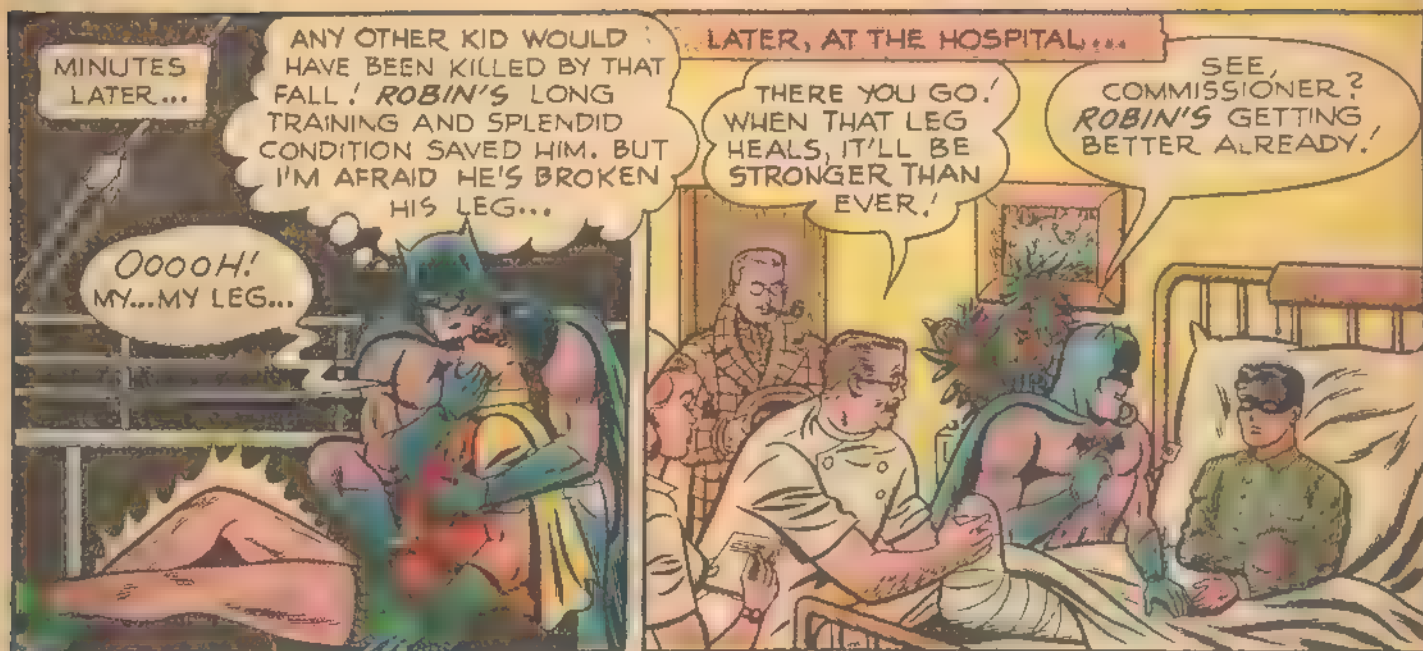
**BATMAN**!  
I SLIPPED--  
I CAN'T  
STOP!

**ROBIN**!  
GO LIMP!  
GO LIMP, **ROBIN**...  
AND RIDE WITH  
THE FALL! IT'S  
YOUR ONLY  
CHANCE!

AND THEN...

THE POOR KID!  
THE POOR KID!

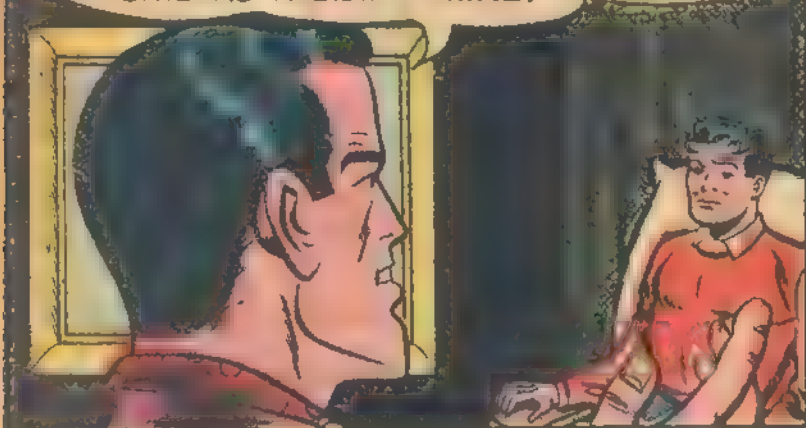






THEN, AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** REVERT BACK TO THE ROLES OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...

A CERTAIN NORTHERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT HAS PUT IN AN URGENT REQUEST FOR A COUNTERPART OF **BATMAN**! I'M GOING TO TRAIN ONE FROM AMONG THEIR NATURALIZED CITIZENS RESIDING HERE!



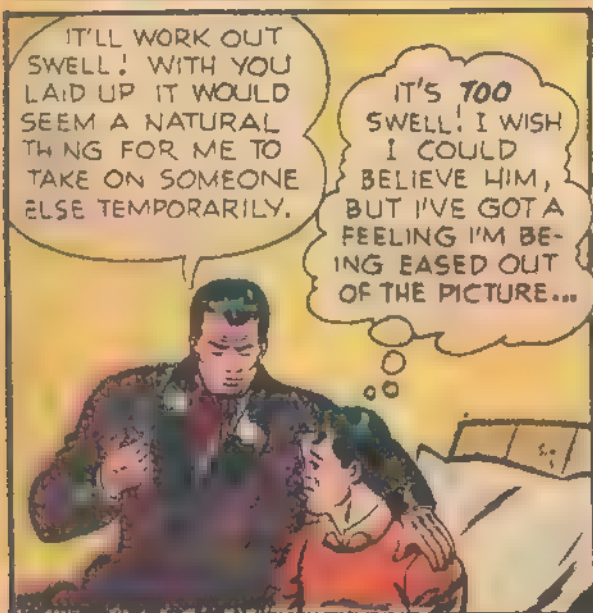
THE PLAN MUST BE KEPT SECRET, THOUGH-- FROM CRIMINAL AGENTS OF THE COUNTRY WHO ARE HERE. SO THIS NEW LAWMAN IS GOING TO APPEAR AS **BATMAN'S PARTNER** --TO AVOID SUSPICION.

**BATMAN'S PARTNER!** THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT I WAS!



IT'LL WORK OUT SWELL! WITH YOU LAID UP IT WOULD SEEM A NATURAL THING FOR ME TO TAKE ON SOMEONE ELSE TEMPORARILY.

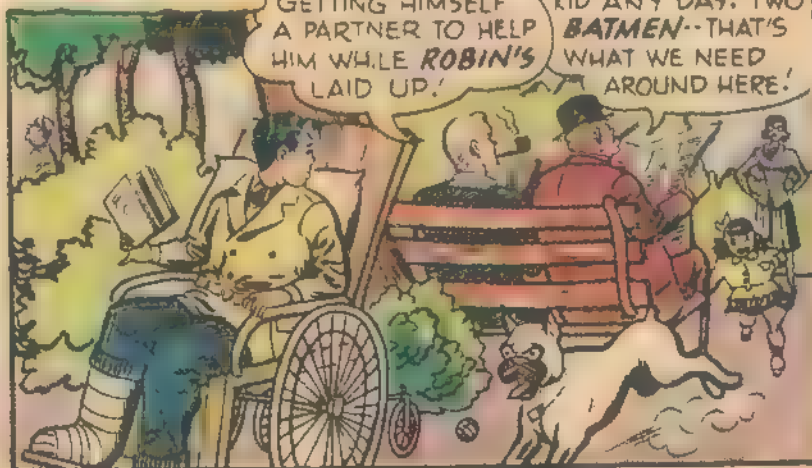
IT'S *TOO* SWELL! I WISH I COULD BELIEVE HIM, BUT I'VE GOT A FEELING I'M BEING EASED OUT OF THE PICTURE...



AND NEXT DAY, WHILE DICK RECUPERATES IN GOTHAM PARK...

DID YOU SEE THE PAPER? **BATMAN'S** GETTING HIMSELF A PARTNER TO HELP HIM WHILE **ROBIN'S** LAID UP!

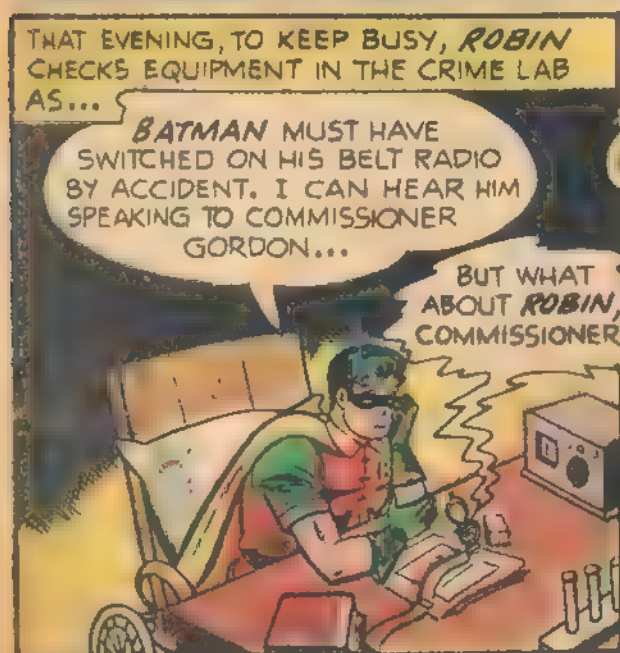
YEAH! IF YOU ASK ME, IT'S A SMART MOVE! A MAN IS BETTER THAN A KID ANY DAY! TWO **BATMEN**--THAT'S WHAT WE NEED AROUND HERE!



THAT EVENING, TO KEEP BUSY, **ROBIN** CHECKS EQUIPMENT IN THE CRIME LAB AS...

**BATMAN** MUST HAVE SWITCHED ON HIS BELT RADIO BY ACCIDENT. I CAN HEAR HIM SPEAKING TO COMMISSIONER GORDON...

BUT WHAT ABOUT **ROBIN**, COMMISSIONER?

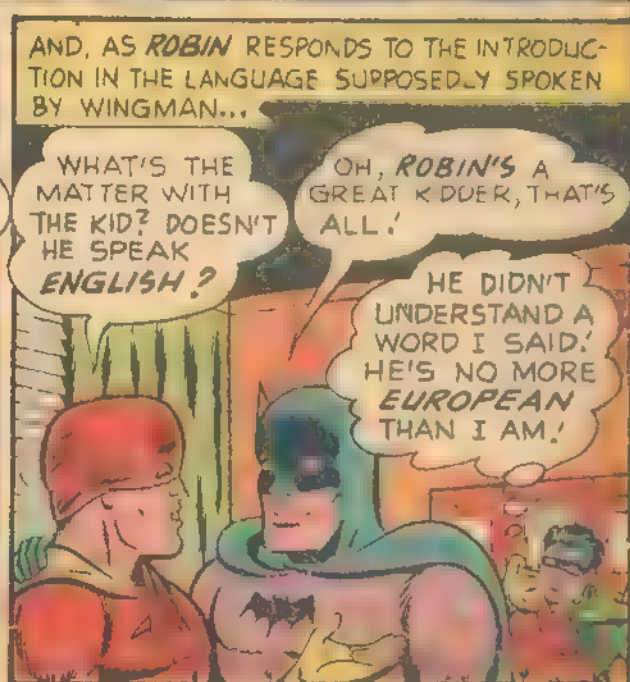
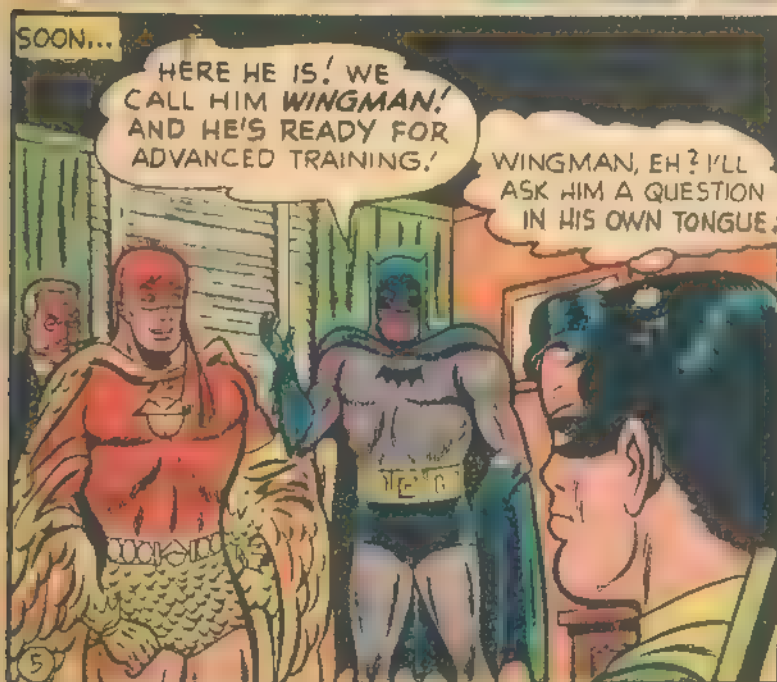
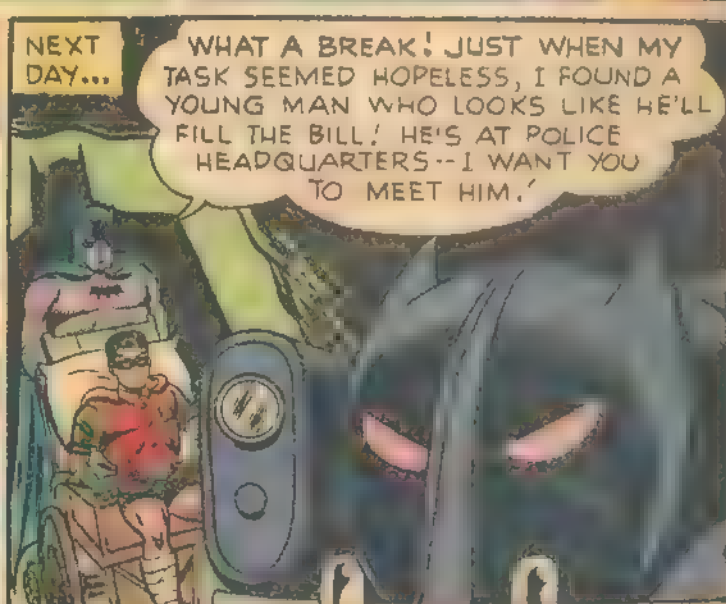
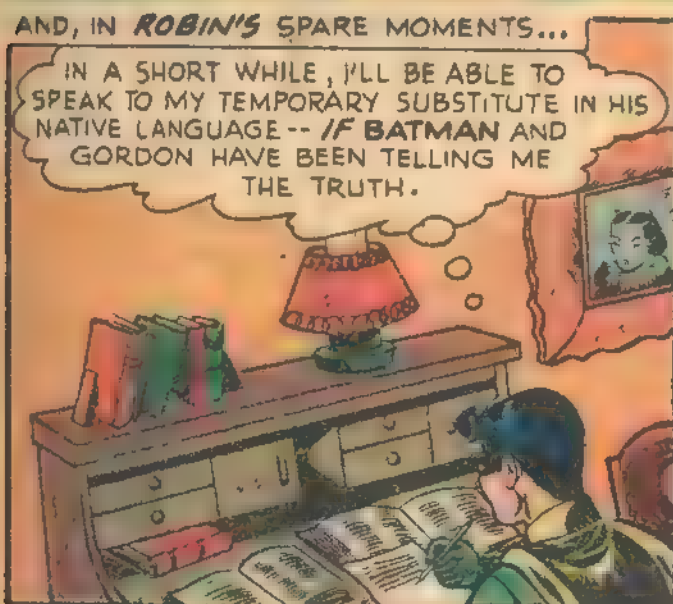
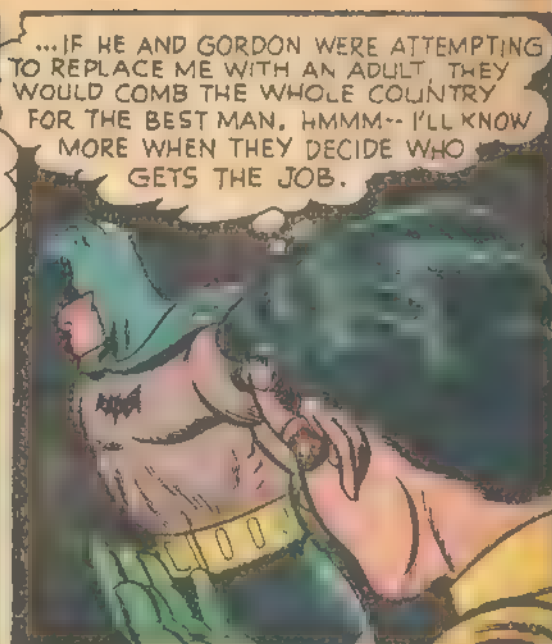
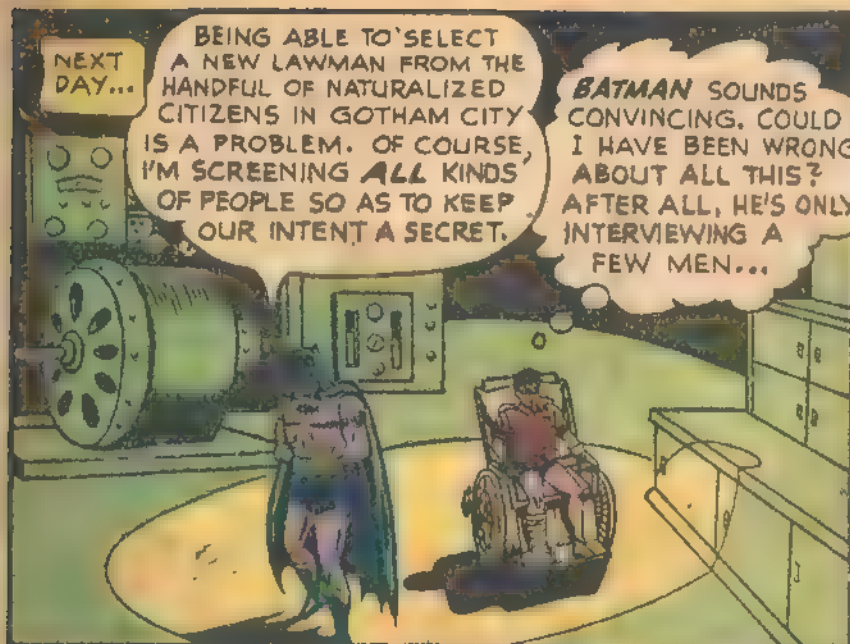


WE DON'T NEED ANY **ROBIN**, **BATMAN**! I'VE GOT THINGS ALL FIGURED OUT!

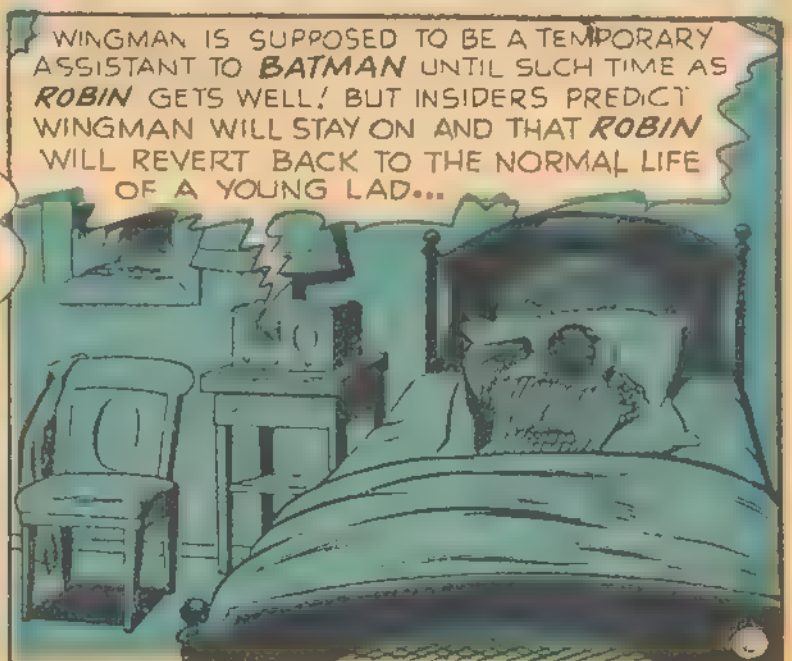
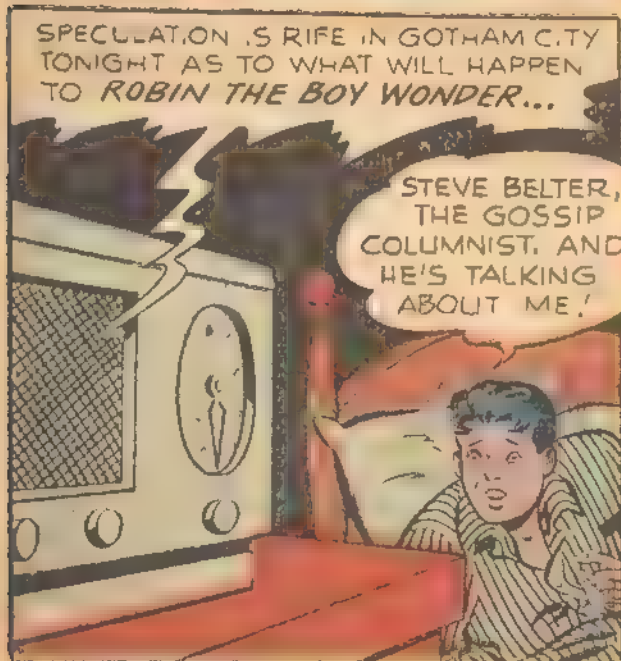
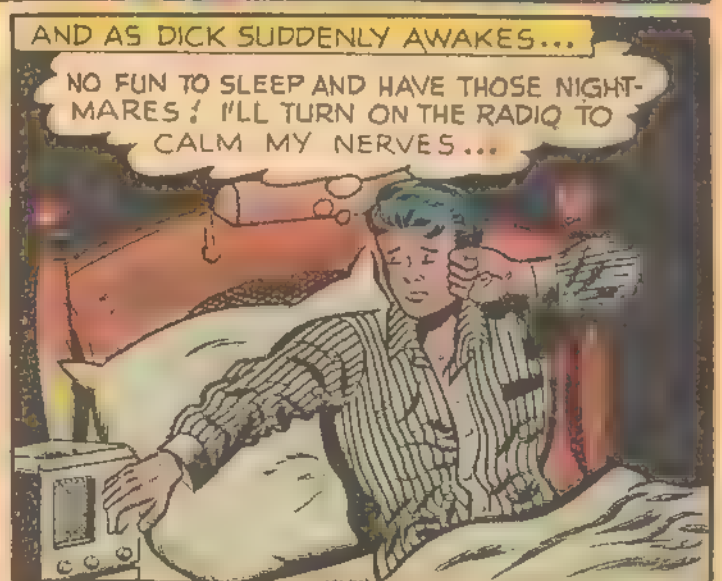
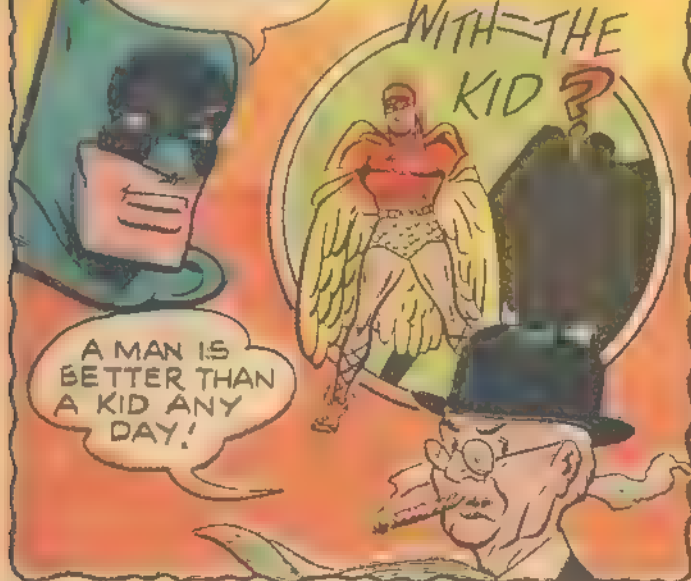
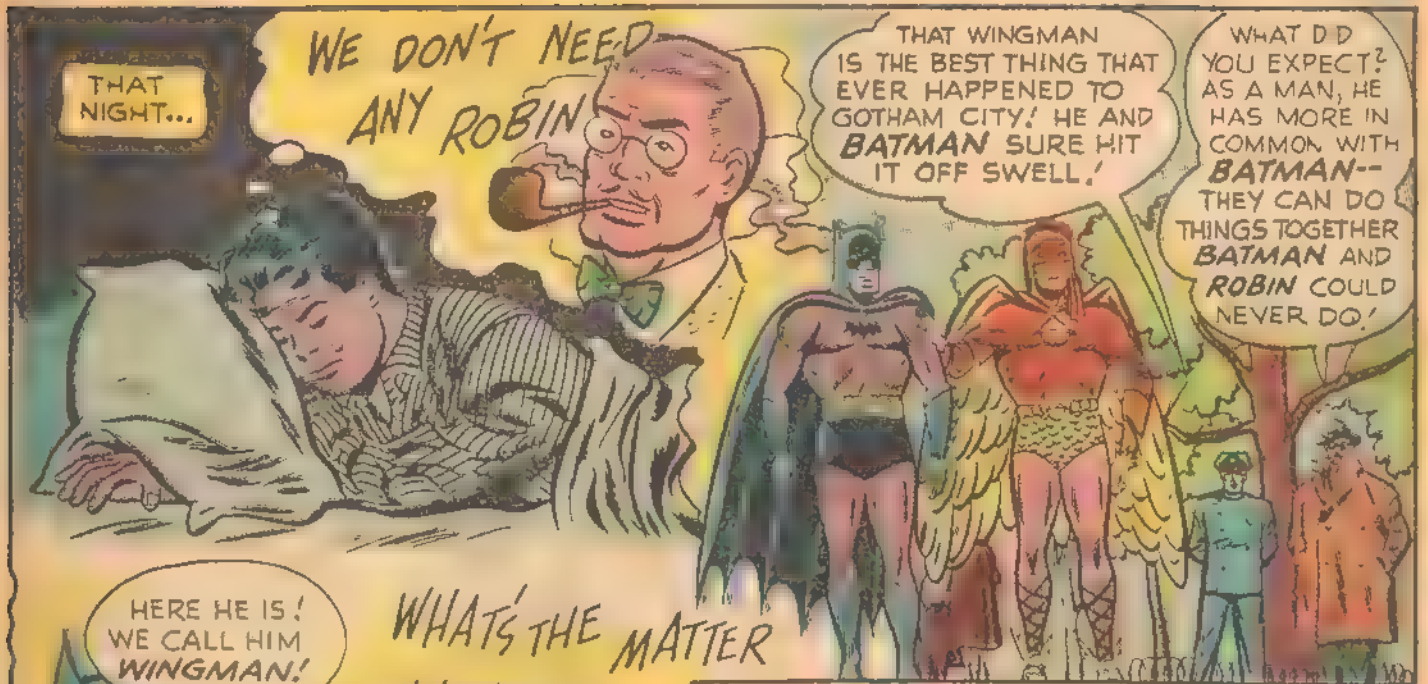
JUST AS I FEARED! (SOB!) THEY'RE PLANNING TO DROP ME!













NEXT DAY, IN A SPECIALLY-CONSTRUCTED GYMNASIUM SOMEWHERE IN GOTHAM CITY...

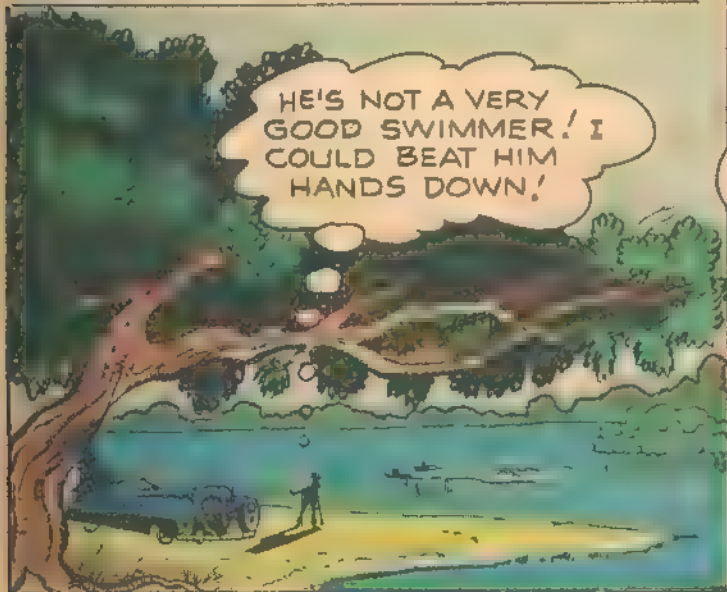
WE'RE GOING TO START WINGMAN'S TRAINING WITH ADVANCED GYMNASTICS. I WANT YOU TO MAKE A MOTION PICTURE RECORD OF WHAT GOES ON, SO THAT WE CAN SPOT HIS FAULTS AND CORRECT THEM...

FAULTS! THAT GIVES ME SOME HOPE!

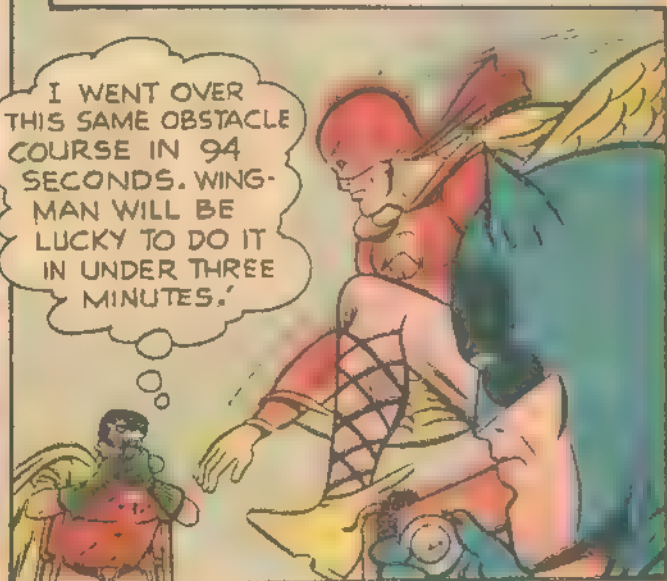


AND, AS WINGMAN'S TRAINING CONTINUES...

HE'S NOT A VERY GOOD SWIMMER! I COULD BEAT HIM HANDS DOWN!



I WENT OVER THIS SAME OBSTACLE COURSE IN 94 SECONDS. WINGMAN WILL BE LUCKY TO DO IT IN UNDER THREE MINUTES!



THEN, AFTER WEEKS HAVE PASSED, AND WINGMAN'S TRAINING IS OVER...

WELL, SOME OF IT'S GOOD, AND SOME OF IT'S BAD-- HE'S STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO...

HMM... BATMAN'S BEGINNING TO SEE IT ISN'T GOING TO BE SO EASY TO REPLACE ME!



THE TRUE TEST OF WINGMAN'S ABILITY WILL BE HOW HE REACTS UNDER FIRE! TOMORROW, I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM OUT AGAINST CRIME!

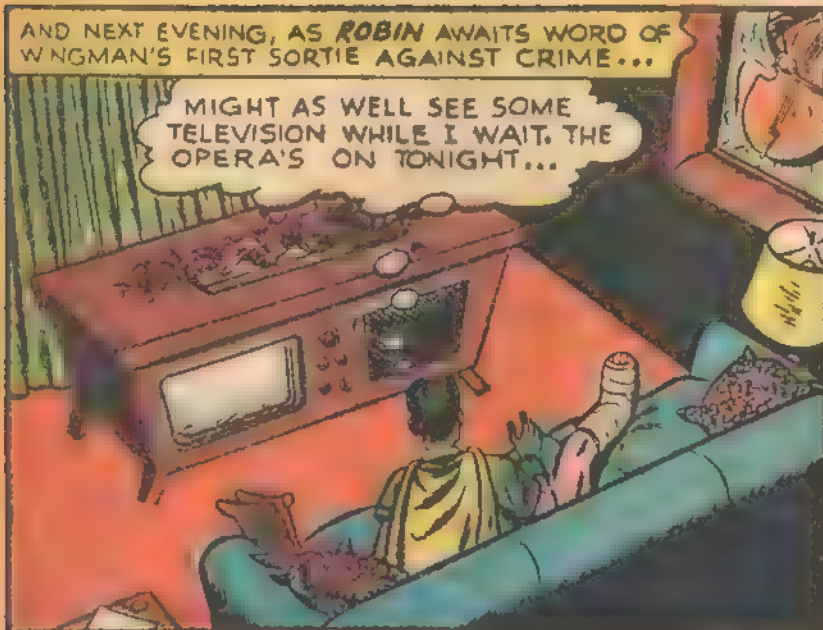
I'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE! WINGMAN MAY FAIL MISERABLY WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN!



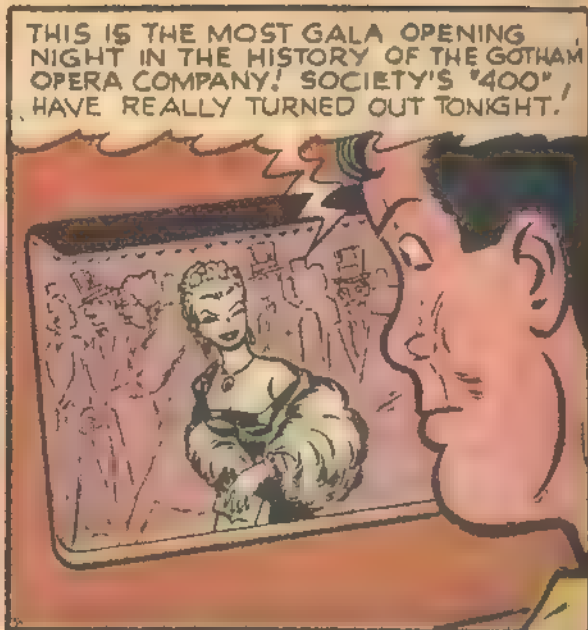


AND NEXT EVENING, AS **ROBIN** AWAITS WORD OF **WINGMAN'S** FIRST SORTIE AGAINST CRIME...

MIGHT AS WELL SEE SOME TELEVISION WHILE I WAIT. THE OPERA'S ON TONIGHT...



THIS IS THE MOST GALA OPENING NIGHT IN THE HISTORY OF THE **GOTHAM OPERA COMPANY!** SOCIETY'S "400" HAVE REALLY TURNED OUT TONIGHT!



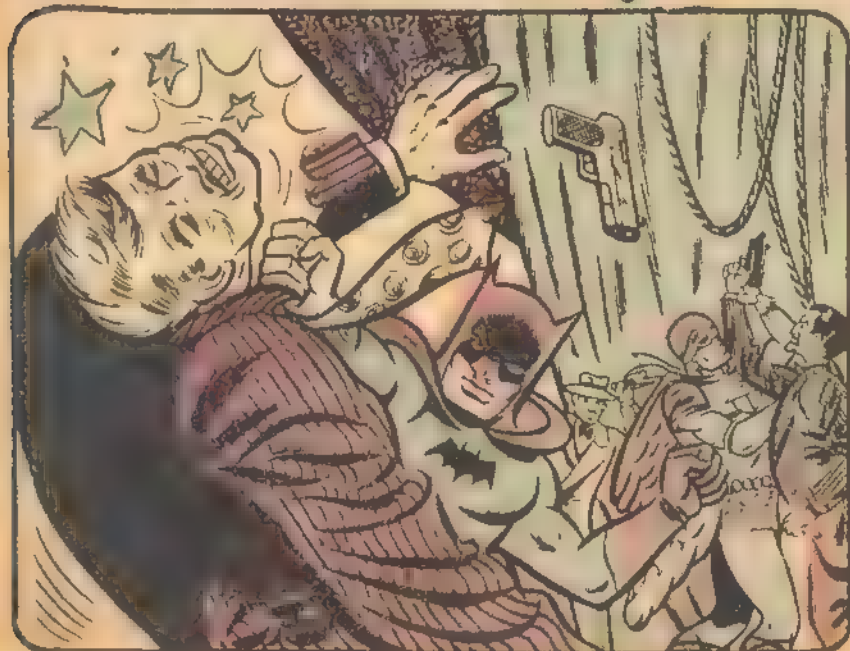
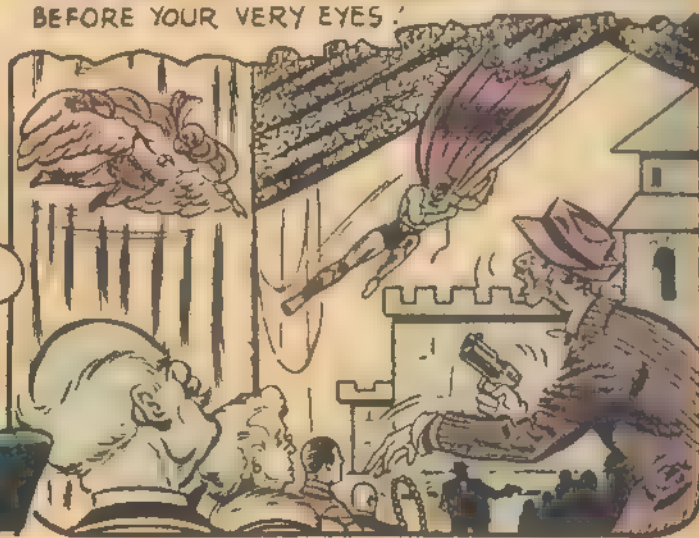
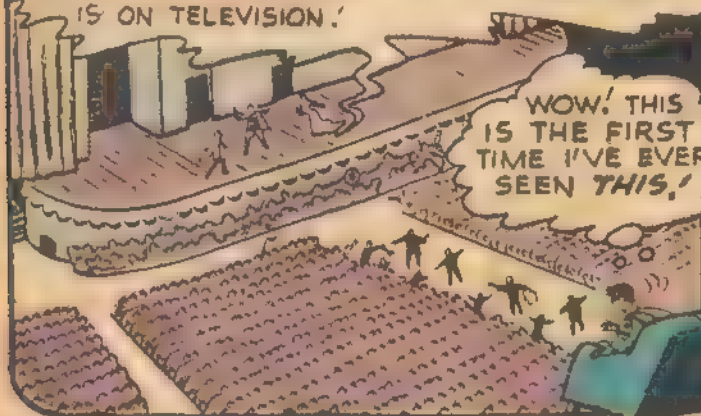
THEN ALL AT ONCE, DURING THE OPERA'S FIRST ACT...

SUDDENLY...

LOOK, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! **BATMAN** AND **WINGMAN** HAVE ARRIVED! REAL **DRAMA** IS UNFOLDING BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES!

WAIT A MINUTE! THIS IS A HOLD-UP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! THIS IS NO GAG! A MOST BRAZEN GANG IS ROBBING THE OPERA AUDIENCE, UNMINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT THE WHOLE THING IS ON TELEVISION!

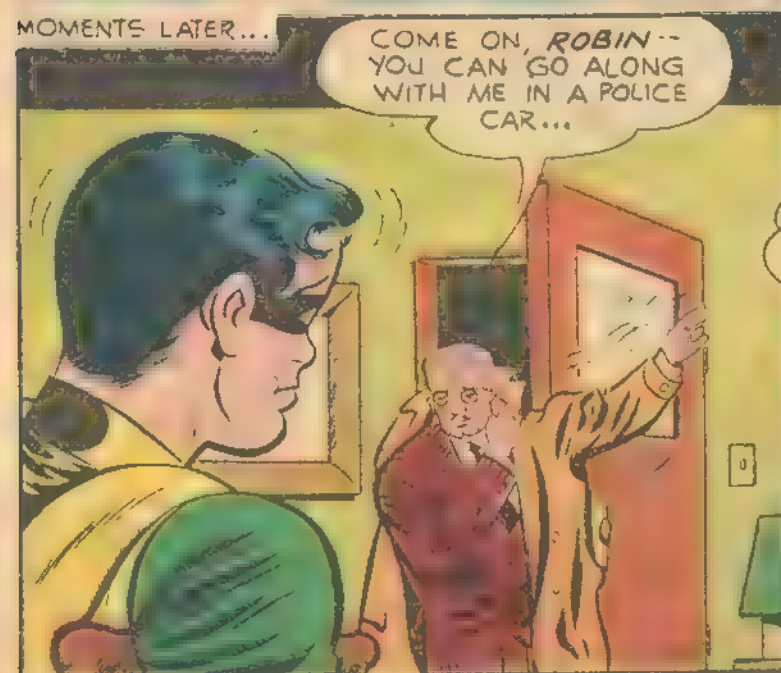
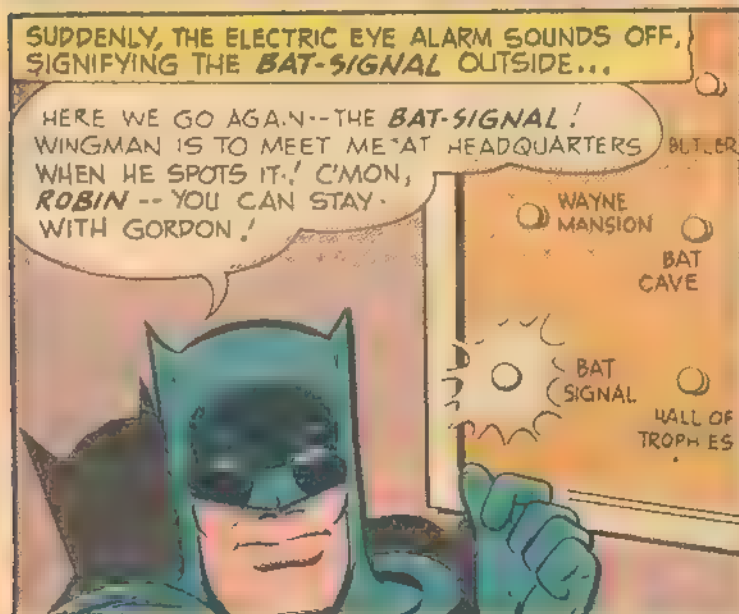
WOW! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN THIS!



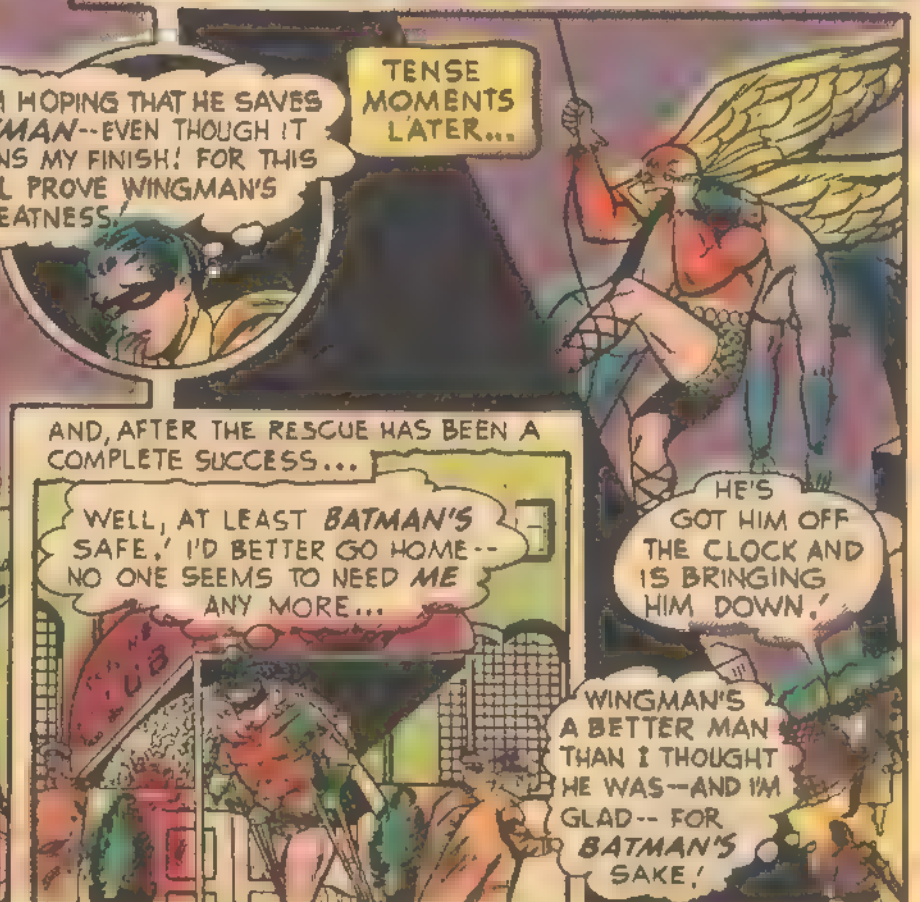
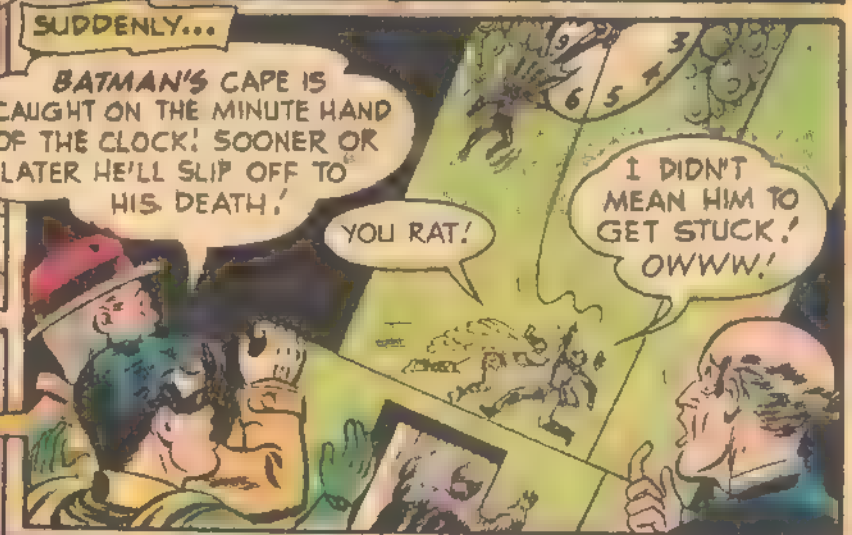
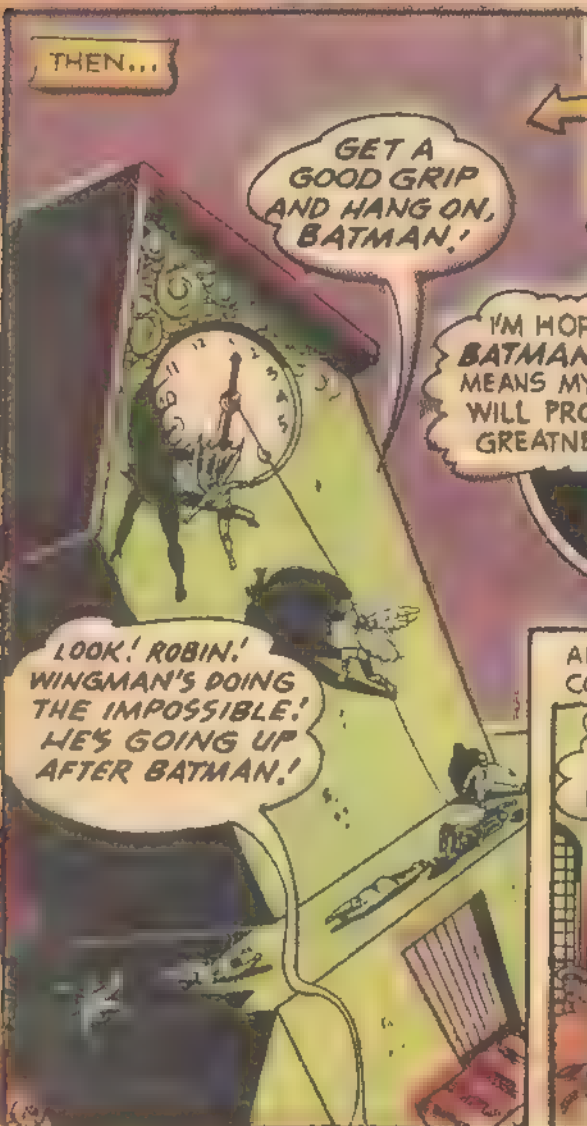
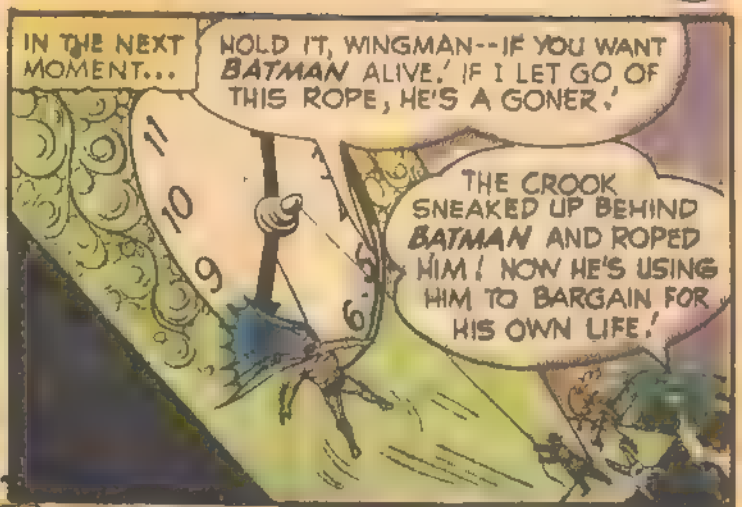
WHY DOESN'T **WINGMAN** REACH BACK AND PULL THAT CURTAIN ?!! HE'D CATCH THOSE CROOKS LIKE FISH IN A NET!







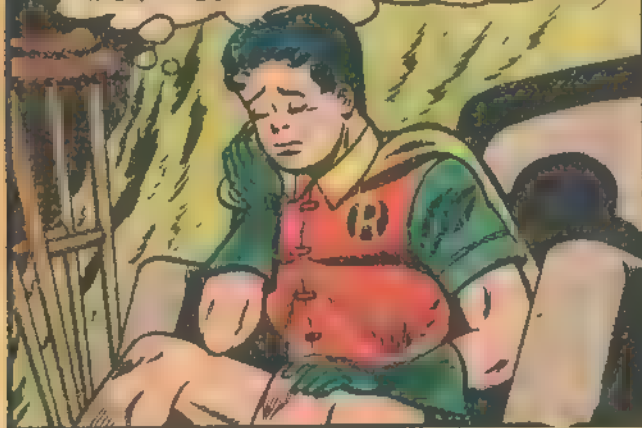






LATER, IN THE **BAT-CAVE...**

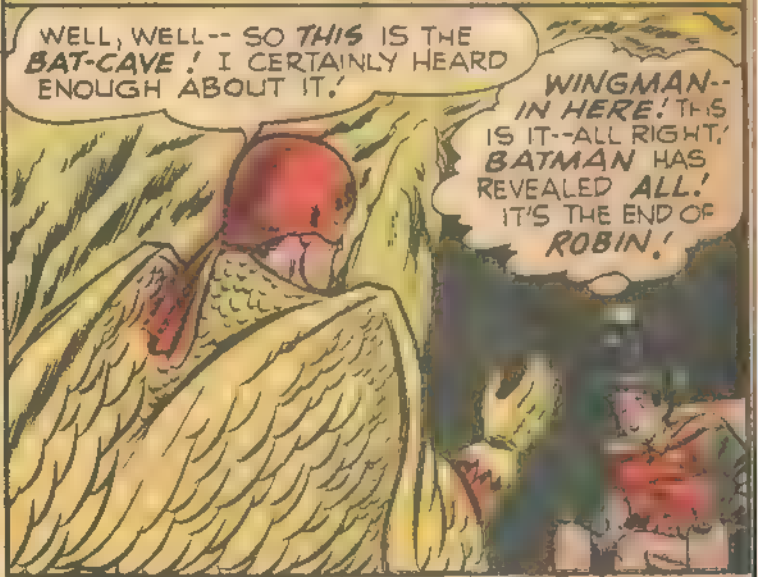
NOW I'VE GOT ONLY ONE STRAW LEFT TO GRASP AT--AND A VERY THIN STRAW AT THAT! AT LEAST **BATMAN** HASN'T TOLD **EVERYTHING** TO **WINGMAN**--SHOWN HIM THIS **BATCAVE**--REVEALED OUR SECRET IDENTITIES...



AND THEN, AS IF IN ANSWER TO **ROBIN'S** THOUGHTS, **WINGMAN ENTERS THE BAT-CAVE!**

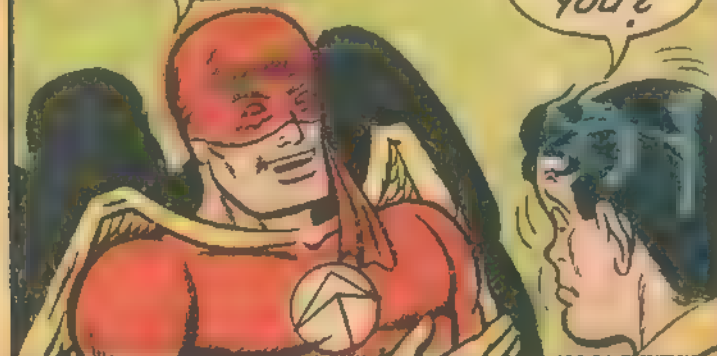
WELL, WELL-- SO **THIS** IS THE **BAT-CAVE**! I CERTAINLY HEARD ENOUGH ABOUT IT!

**WINGMAN--**  
**IN HERE!** THIS IS IT--ALL RIGHT, **BATMAN** HAS REVEALED **ALL!** IT'S THE END OF **ROBIN!**



AND YOU'RE **DICK GRAYSON!** BOY, WAS I SURPRISED WHEN I FOUND OUT WHO **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** REALLY WERE! I'D NEVER HAVE GUESSED IN A MILLION YEARS!

ALL RIGHT--YOU KNOW MY SECRETS! NOW--WHO ARE YOU?

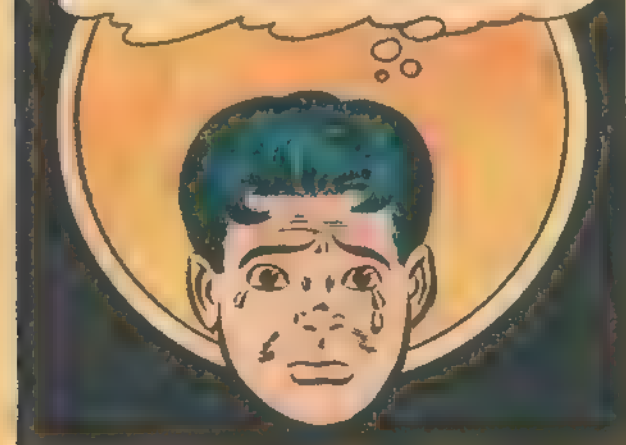


OH, I COULDN'T TELL YOU THAT! **BATMAN** SAYS NO ONE BUT **HE** SHALL KNOW MY **TRUE** IDENTITY!

I'M NOT EVEN TRUSTED ANY MORE!

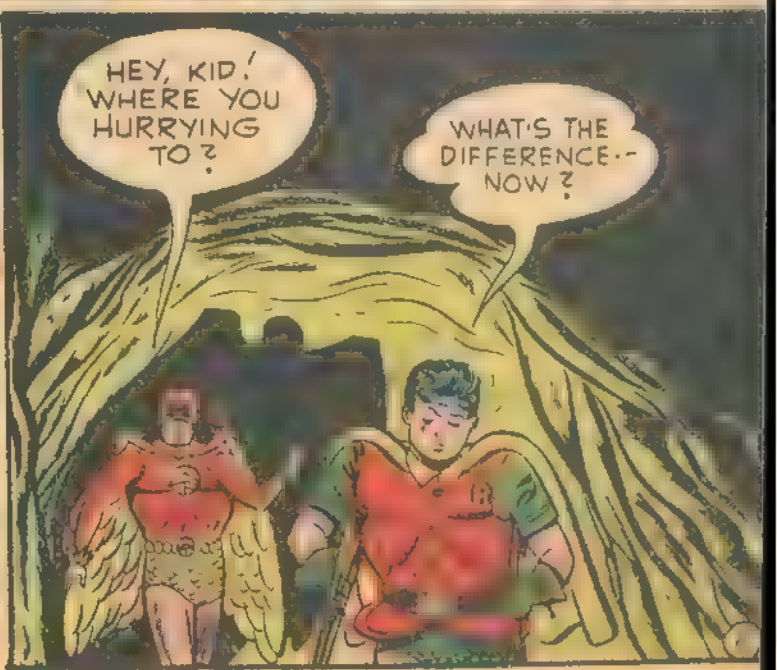


IF **BATMAN'S** STORY WERE TRUE, ABOUT TRAINING A **BATMAN** FOR A FOREIGN COUNTRY, THERE'D BE NO NEED OF REVEALING ALL THE **BATMAN** SECRETS TO HIM! I'LL NEVER FORGIVE **BATMAN** FOR NOT KEEPING FAITH WITH ME...

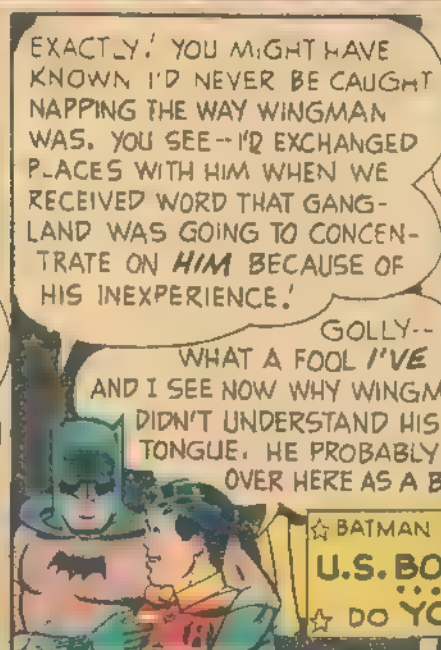
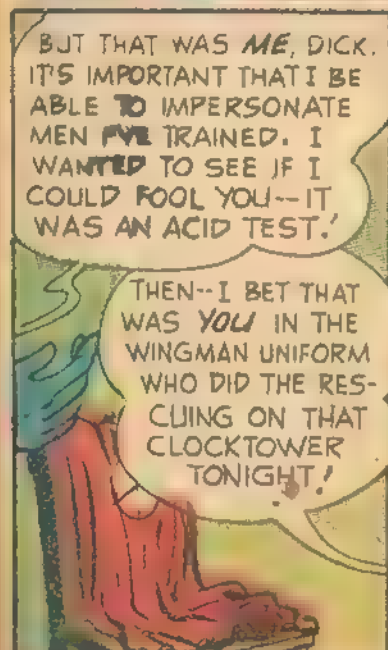
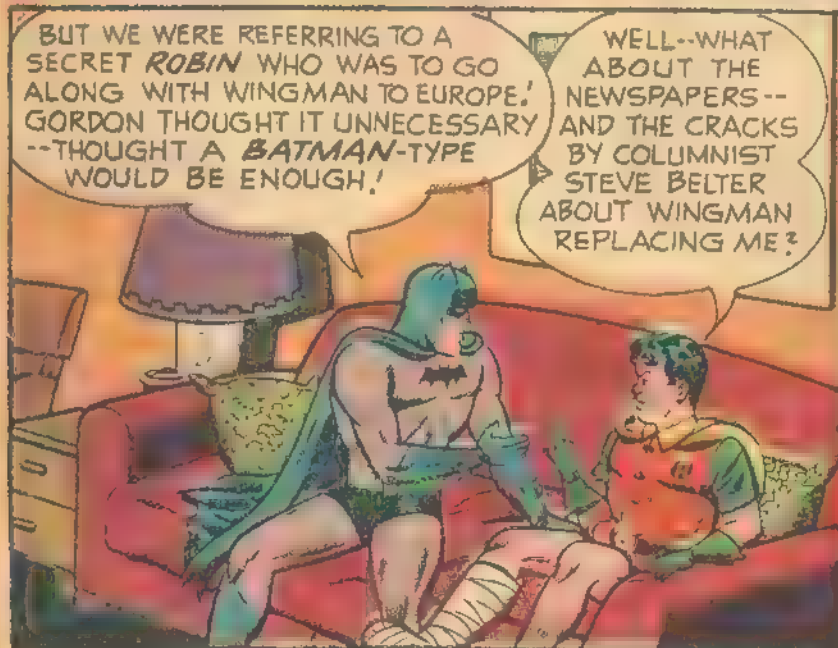


HEY, KID! WHERE YOU HURRYING TO?

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE--NOW?









PERMANENT  
DC  
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10c

# BATMAN

Featuring  
**"BATMAN-  
INDIAN  
CHIEF!"**







BATMAN



# BATMAN

IT'S A NEW ROLE INDEED FOR  
BATMAN AND ROBIN WHEN  
THEY BECOME STAND-INS FOR...  
BATMAN AND ROBIN!  
CONFUSING, YOU SAY? WELL,  
READ ON AND YOU'LL SEE  
THAT IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE,  
WHEN THE CAPED CRIME-  
BUSTER DONS THE ATTIRE  
OF MAN-OF-THE-BATS,  
GALLANT MASKED LAWMAN  
OF THE WEST, AND BEGINS  
HIS ROLE AS...

## BATMAN- INDIAN CHIEF!

by  
BOB  
KANE







# BATMAN



ONE NIGHT, AS THE FAMED **BAT-PLANE** SOARS OVER MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN, FAR FROM **GOTHAM CITY**...

IN ABOUT TEN HOURS, WE'LL BE BACK HOME! I CAN'T SAY I WON'T BE GLAD!

SAME HERE! THESE D' STANT MSSIONS MAKE ME HOMES CK!



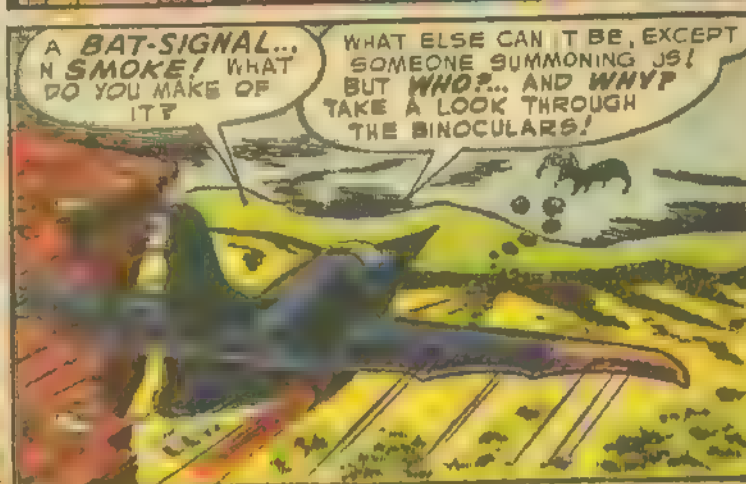
INSIDE ARE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** WITH THEIR MASKS FLUNG BACK, REVEALING THE FACES OF **BRUCE WAYNE** AND **DICK GRAYSON**...

GREAT GUNS! AM I SEEING THINGS? LOOK OVER THERE!



A **BAT-SIGNAL**... IN **SMOKE**! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?

WHAT ELSE CAN IT BE, EXCEPT SOMEONE SUMMONING US! BUT **WHO?**... AND **WHY?** TAKE A LOOK THROUGH THE BINOCULARS!



THIS GETS MORE INCREDIBLE BY THE MINUTE! THERE'S A BOY DOWN THERE WHO LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE ME!



STUNNED BY THESE SURPRISING EVENTS, THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTERS HURRIEDLY LAND THE **BAT-PLANE** IN A SHELTERED CLEARING, AND

A **BAT-SIGNAL** IN THE FORM OF **SMOKE**-- A BOY WHO LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE YOU, **ROBIN**... THIS CALLS FOR AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION! COME ON!



AND DEEP IN THE WOODS STILL ANOTHER SURPRISE... A **CAMP** BEARING A **BAT-SYMBOL**, AND A **CAVERN** NOT UNLIKE THEIR OWN **BAT-CAVE**!

BUT WHAT CAN THIS MEAN?

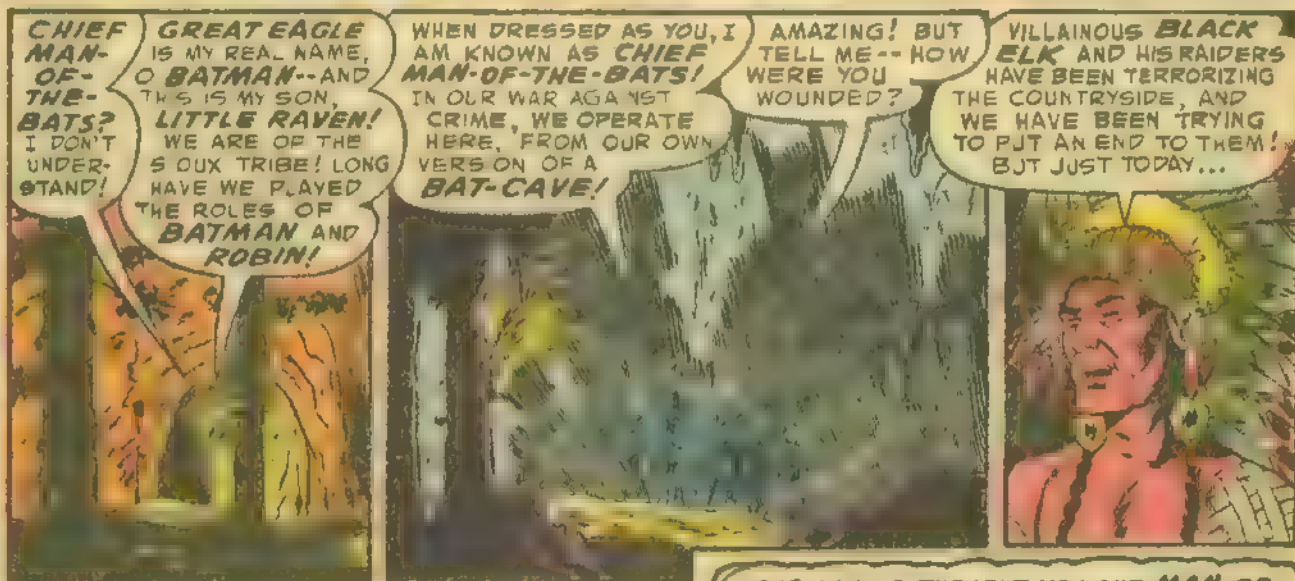
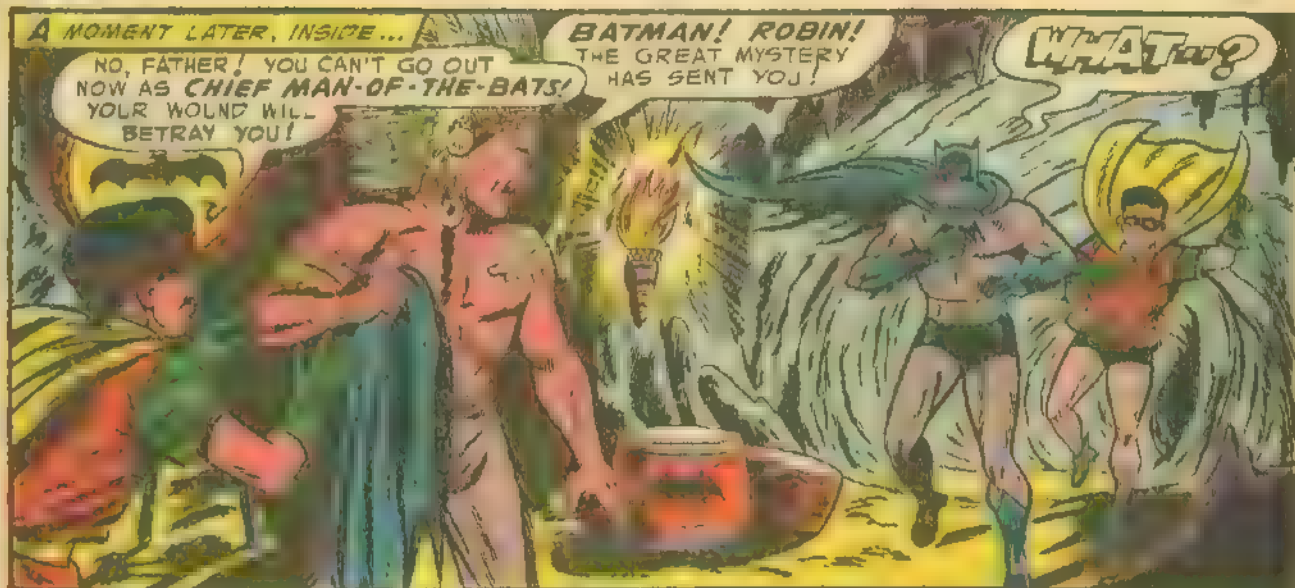
LISTEN... YOU'VE BEEN INSIDE THE CAVE! LET'S HAVE A LOOK!







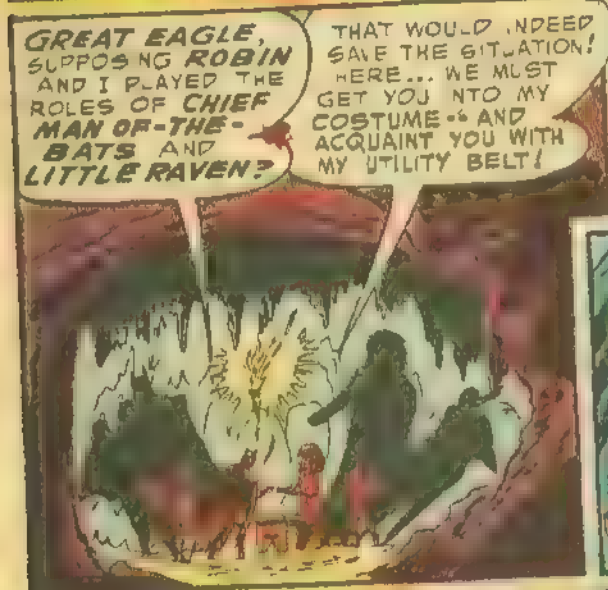
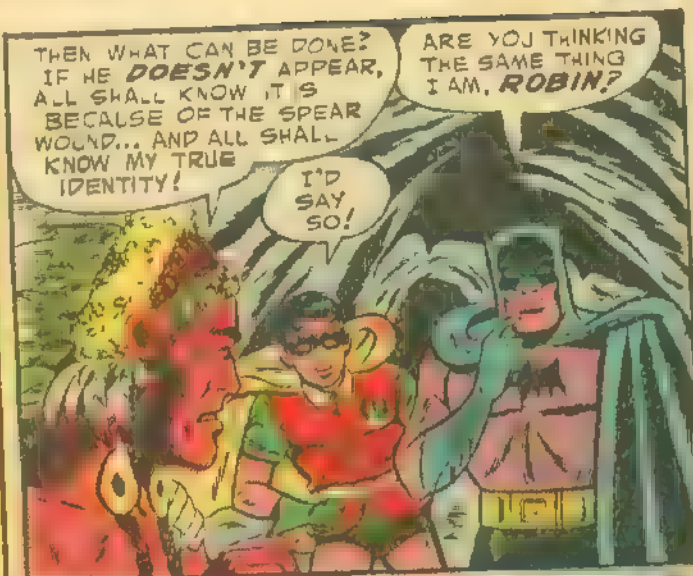
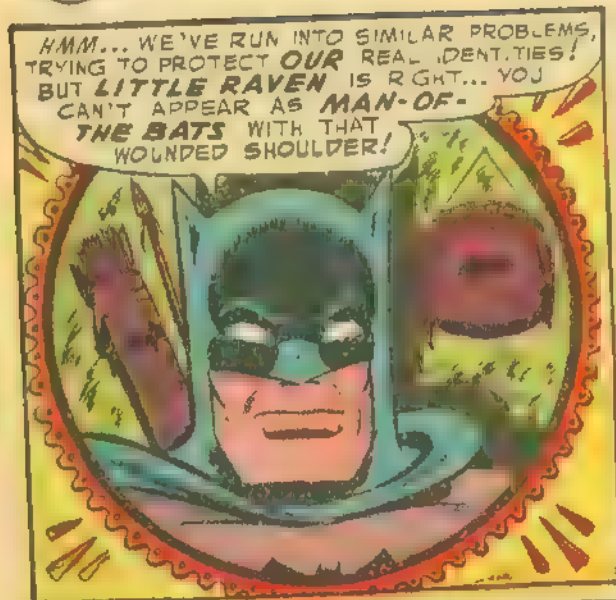
# BATMAN







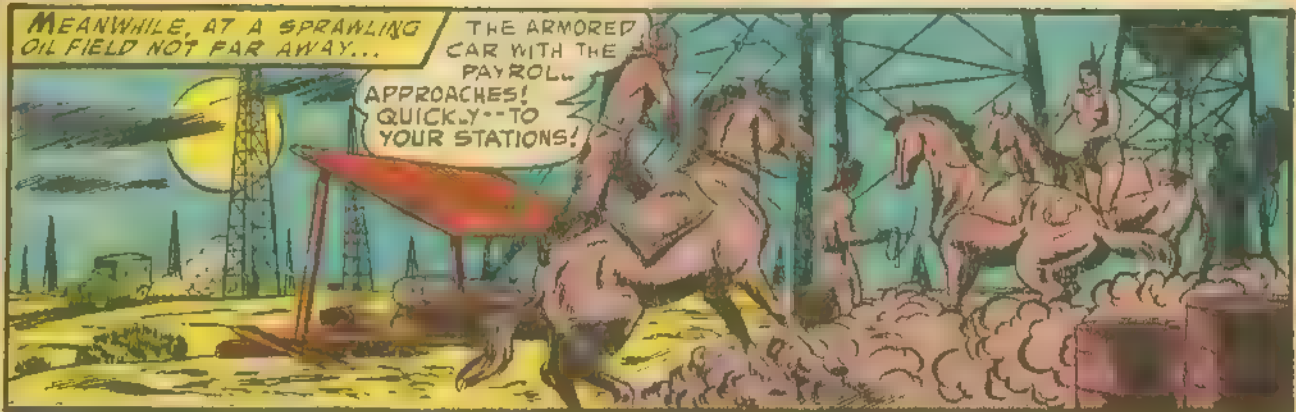
# BATMAN







# BATMAN



A BOW TWANGS, THEN ANOTHER--AND ANOTHER...



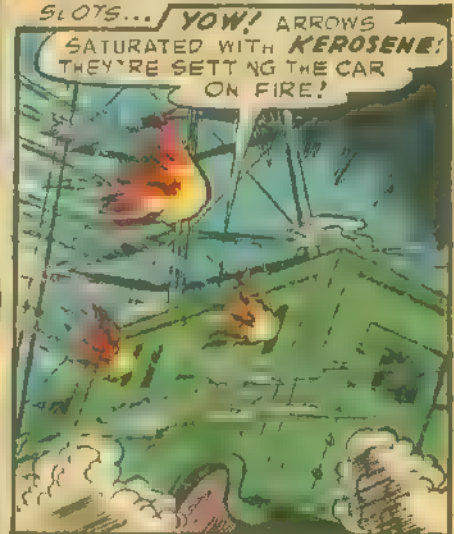
SWERVING, THE CAR SMASHES INTO THE BASE OF THE DERRICK.

THEY'LL NEVER CRACK THROUGH OUR ARMOR! LET 'EM HAVE IT!



BUT BEFORE THE GUARDS CAN OPEN FIRE, FLAMING SHAFTS STREAK THROUGH THE GUN SLOTS...

YOW! ARROWS SATURATED WITH KEROSENE! THEY'RE SETTING THE CAR ON FIRE!

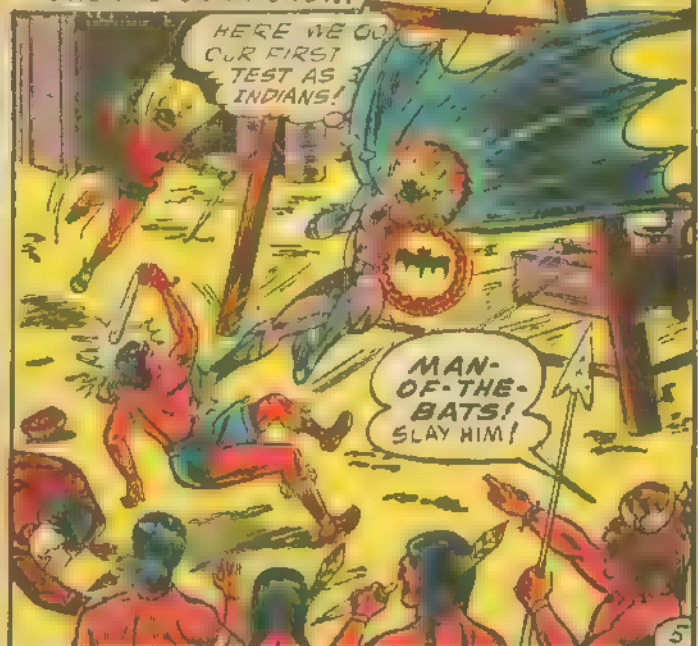


RUSHING OUT FRANTICALLY, THE GUARDS ARE QUICKLY SUBDUED...

NOW--THE PAYROLL! MAKE WASTE--BEFORE THE FLAMES CONSUME IT!



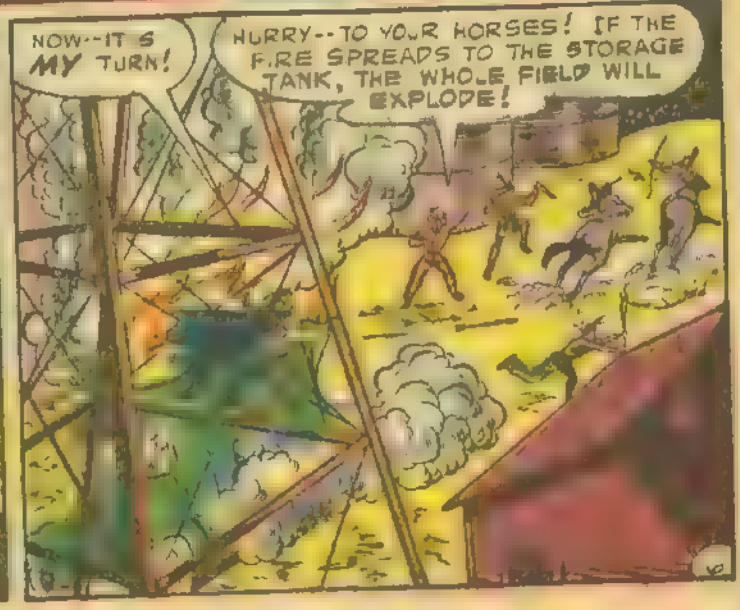
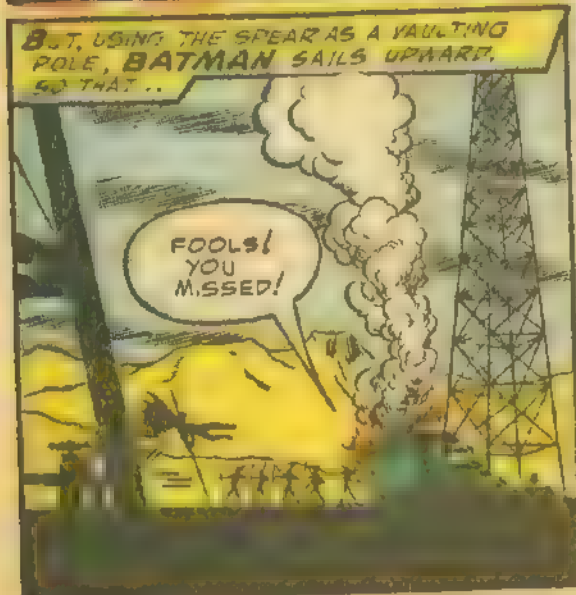
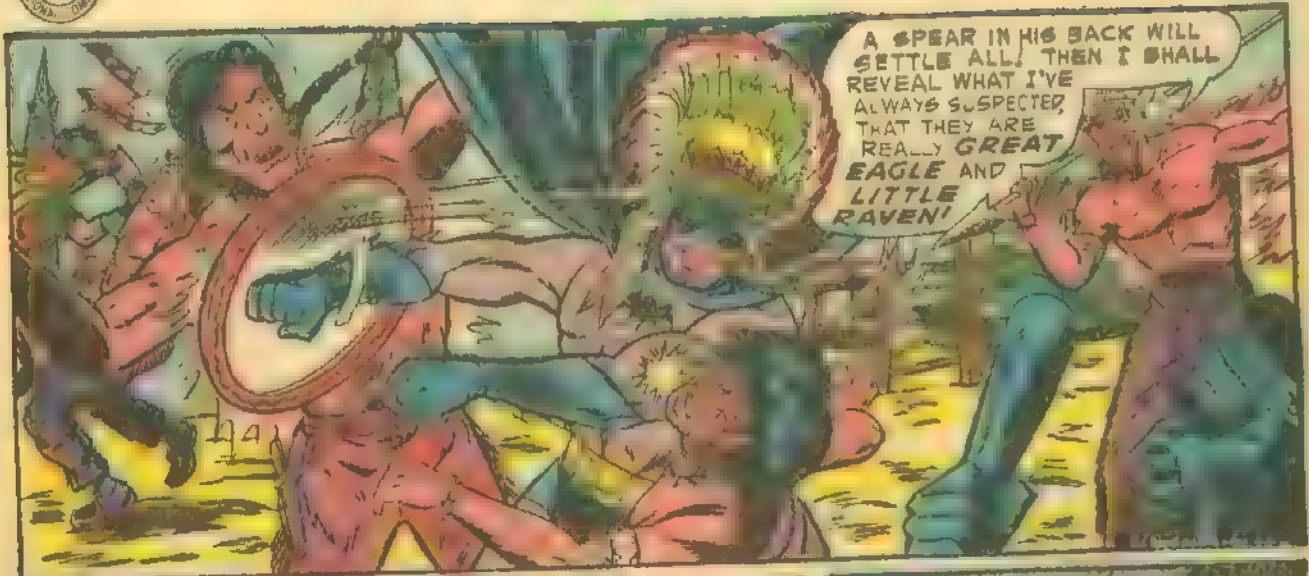
BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, ATTRACTED BY THE BLAZE BELOW, TWO FIGURES SWING FROM ONE OF THE TOWERING DERRICKS...







# BATMAN







# BATMAN



AND AS THE RAIDERS GALLOP OFF... THEY'RE GETTING AWAY-- BUT PUTTING THAT FIRE OUT IS MORE IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW! IF THE FLAMES EVER REACH THE STORAGE TANKS-- AS **BLACK ELK** SAID-- EVERYTHING WILL GO UP!

A TWO MAN **BUCKET BRIGADE** OUGHT TO TURN THE TRICK!

**SHORTLY...** WE HAVE OTHER WORK NOW! WE ARE GOING AFTER **BLACK ELK**!

INJUNS--YOU SAVED THE PAYROLL! THANKS!

AND AT THE RIVER, WHERE, AT FIRST, THE TRAIL SEEMS LOST FOREVER... SEE BELOW, ON THE RIVER'S BOTTOM? SMALL STONES AND PEBBLES HAVE BEEN OVERTURNED! THAT PATTERN CONTINUES SOUTHWARD!

THE STONES WERE DISTURBED BY HORSES' FEET! EVEN THOUGH THE ACTUAL TRACKS ARE WASHED AWAY-- WE NOW KNOW WHICH DIRECTION **BLACK ELK** TOOK!

LATER, AS THEY SCAN THE NEARBY TERRAIN... NO! WE'VE GOT TO COME ON... WE'LL GET THE **BATPLANE** AND FOLLOW THEM! HANDLE THIS LIKE **INDIANS**--REMEMBER! HERE'S THEIR TRAIL-- LEADING SOUTH TOWARD THE RIVER!

THEY'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE RIVER SOMETIME... AND WHEN THEY DO, WE'LL BE ABLE TO PICK UP THEIR TRAIL AGAIN!

BUT SOME MILES FURTHER ON THE TRACKS EMERGE FROM THE RIVER ONLY TO END ABRUPTLY, AT THE EDGE OF A VAST, STONY FLATNESS... THEY HEADED ACROSS THE LAVA FLATS! HORSES DON'T LEAVE PRINTS IN HARD STONE! WE'RE BEATEN!

NO! NOT YET! AGAIN WE'VE GOT TO PLAY INDIAN! **GREAT EAGLE** WOULD FIND THE TRAIL... SO WILL WE!

INDIAN POWES DON'T WEAR HORSESHOES... BUT SEE THESE SMALL SCRAPINGS OF BONY SUBSTANCE? THAT WAS LEFT BY THE **FEET** OF THEIR HORSES! THEN WE CAN STILL FOLLOW THEM! **GREAT EAGLE** SHOULD BE PROUD OF US FOR FIGURING THIS ONE OUT!





# BATMAN



FINALLY, AS DAWN BREAKS...

THEIR TRAIL LEADS HERE...  
TO AN OLD MINE! THIS, I THINK, IS **BLACK ELK'S** HIDEOUT!

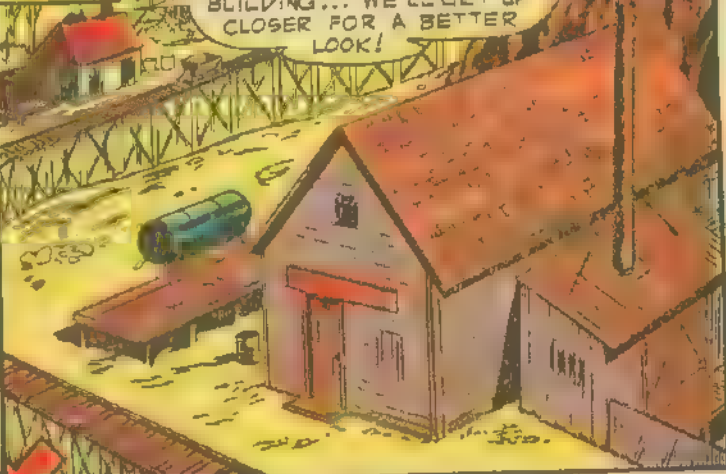
LET'S GET UP ON ONE

OF THE ROOFS  
AND HAVE A LOOK AROUND!



SOON...

OVER THERE IS THE MAIN BUILDING... WE'LL GET UP CLOSER FOR A BETTER LOOK!



BUT JUST THEN...

OH, OH... THOSE SHADOWS...  
WE'VE GOT COMPANY! ACT  
LIKE WE DON'T SEE THEM...  
BUT GET READY TO DIVE  
FOR THAT MONORAIL  
CAR!

RIGHT... SAY  
WHEN!



WE'RE STOPPING!  
LASSO THE PLAT-  
FORM, **ROBIN**--  
OR WE'LL BE  
TRAPPED!

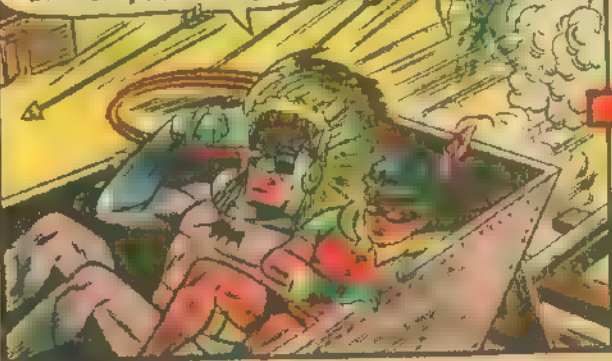
CHECK!

AI-EEE! MAN-OF-  
THE-BATS AND THE  
BOY! DOWN THEM!



NOW!

WE SET THE CAR IN MOTION... IT'S  
CARRYING US TOWARD THE  
UNLOADING PLATFORM! LOW  
BRIDGE, **ROBIN**!



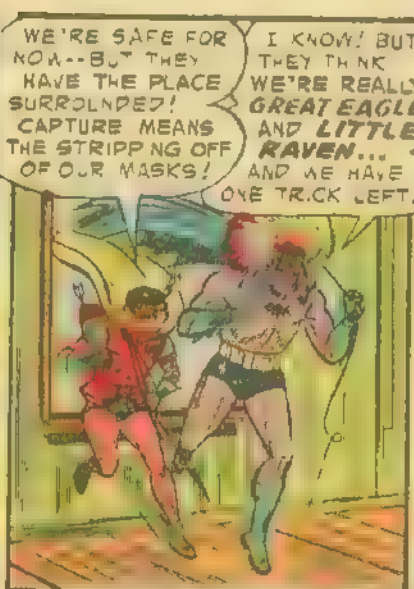




# BATMAN



ALL RIGHT--  
LET'S GO!



WE'RE SAFE FOR  
NOW--BUT THEY  
HAVE THE PLACE  
SURROUNDED!  
CAPTURE MEANS  
THE STRIPPING OFF  
OF OUR MASKS!

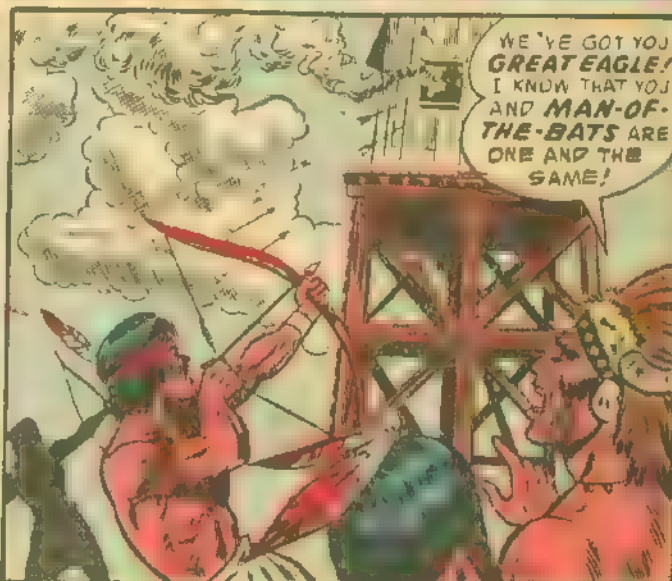
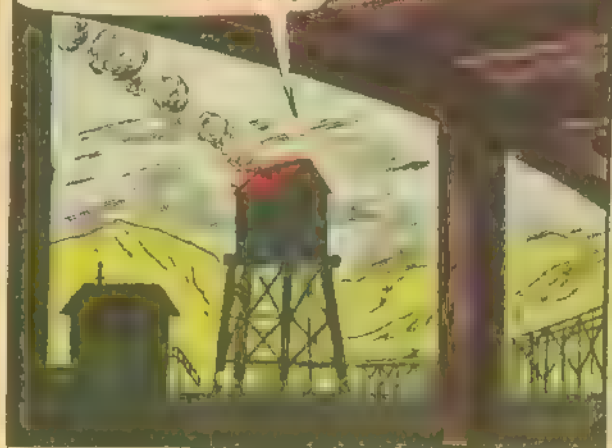
I KNOW! BUT  
THEY THINK  
WE'RE REALLY  
**GREAT EAGLE**  
AND **LITTLE**  
**RAVEN**...  
AND WE HAVE  
ONE TRICK LEFT!



SWIFTLY, BATMAN REMOVES SOME  
TINY MISSILES FROM THE UTILITY  
BELT, AND... **SMOKE PELLETS!**  
THAT'S OUR OUT!

AS THE PELLETS STRIKE THE FLOOR AND BURST,  
THICK CLOUDS BLOW SKYWARD...

NOW, SOMEHOW, WE'VE GOT TO STALL  
THE RAIDERS! GET YOUR BOW  
AND ARROWS READY!

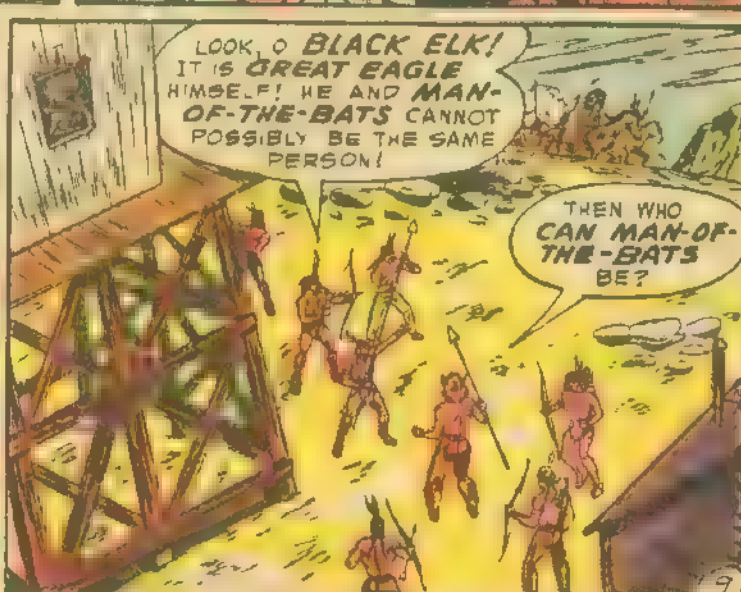


WE'VE GOT YOU  
**GREAT EAGLE!**  
I KNOW THAT YOU  
AND **MAN-OF-**  
**THE-BATS** ARE  
ONE AND THE  
SAME!



ONLY ONE ARROW LEFT! AFTER  
THAT, IT'S CURTAINS! WE'VE  
PROTECTED **GREAT EAGLE'S**  
IDENTITY--BUT NOW WE'RE  
IN DANGER OF REVEALING  
OUR OWN!

LISTEN!  
THEY'RE  
SHOUTING  
ABOUT  
SOME-  
THING!



LOOK, O **BLACK ELK!**  
IT IS **GREAT EAGLE**  
HIMSELF! HE AND **MAN-**  
**OF-THE-BATS** CANNOT  
POSSIBLY BE THE SAME  
PERSON!

THEN WHO  
**CAN MAN-OF-**  
**THE-BATS**  
BE?

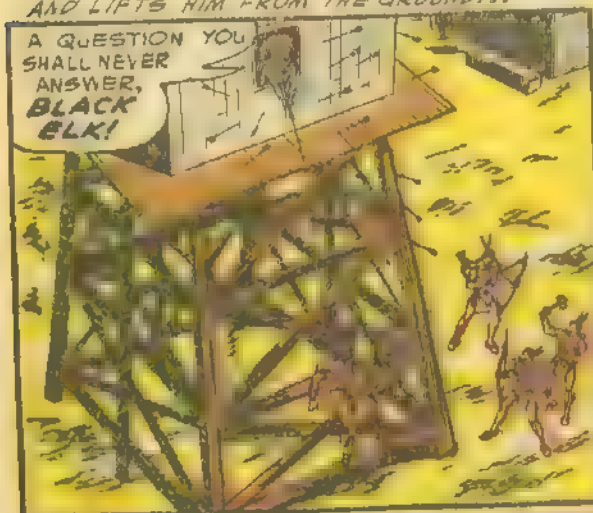




# BATMAN



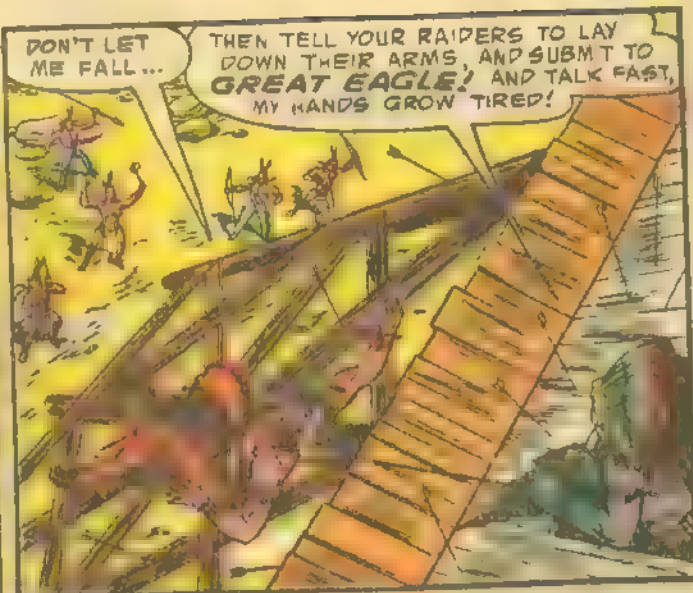
**BUT BEFORE THE INDIAN OUTLAW CAN SAY MORE, A VINE ROPE SETTLES ABOUT HIM, AND LIFTS HIM FROM THE GROUND...**



A QUESTION YOU SHALL NEVER ANSWER, **BLACK ELK!**

DON'T LET ME FALL...

THEN TELL YOUR RAIDERS TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS, AND SUBMIT TO **GREAT EAGLE!** AND TALK FAST, MY HANDS GROW TIRED!



AND SO, PRESENTLY...

MANY JAILS ARE ANXIOUS TO ACCOMMODATE **BLACK ELK!** THANKS TO YOU, **MAN-OF-THE-BATS!** HE AND HIS RAIDERS SOON WILL BE BEHIND BARS!

I WONDER WHO YOU ARE, **MAN-OF-THE-BATS!** SOME DAY, I SHALL FIND OUT!

MUCH LATER, BACK AT **GREAT EAGLE'S** CAVE...

YOUR REAL IDENTITY REMAINS A SECRET... BUT NOW WE MUST LEAVE! THE **BAT-PLANE** IS NEARBY, AND WE HAVE MANY MILES TO COVER TONIGHT!

HAD I NOT SEEN YOUR SMOKE SIGNALS, **BLACK ELK** MAY HAVE LEARNED OF YOUR IDENTITY! BUT THAT, TOO, REMAINS A SECRET! FARE-  
WELL, **BATMAN!**

AND AS THE **BAT-PLANE** TAKES OFF FOR **GOTHAM CITY...**

WHO KNOW?... MAYBE ONE DAY, MY SON, WE CAN GO TO THE GREAT CITY AND DO THEM A FAVOR! WE SHALL SEE!



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JAN. NO. 215  
10¢

# Detective COMICS

**BATMAN**  
FACES THE  
GREATEST  
CHALLENGE  
OF HIS CAREER  
WHEN HE  
UNITES...

**"The BATMEN of  
ALL NATIONS!"**

THE  
GAUCHO  
OF  
ARGENTINA

THE  
LEGIONARY  
OF ITALY

THE MUSKETEER  
OF FRANCE







**L**ASHING OUT AT THE LAWLESS, CRUSHING THE CUNNING CONSPIRACIES OF CRIME, SHIELDING THE INNOCENT... IT'S SMALL WONDER THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS LAWMEN! BUT IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD ARE OTHER CRIME-FIGHTERS WHO HAVE TAKEN BATMAN AS THEIR MODEL! AND WHEN FATE BRINGS ALL THESE LAWMEN OF OTHER LANDS TO GOTHAM CITY ON A MISSION, DANGER LOOMS AS THE UNDERWORLD HURLS DRAMATIC DEFIANCE AT...

**The BATMEN of ALL NATIONS!**

DETECTIVE COMICS, No. 215, January, 1955 issue. Published monthly by NATIONAL COMICS PUBLICATIONS, INC., 480 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y. Whitney Ellsworth, Editor. REENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER APRIL 28, 1942 at the post office at New York, N. Y. under the act of March 3, 1879. Yearly subscription in the U. S. \$1.50 including postage. Foreign, \$3.00 in American funds.

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**BATMAN!** IT'S A MAGIC NAME, INSPIRING MEN IN MANY LANDS--LIKE THE EARL OF WORDENSHIRE AND HIS SON, IN FARAWAY ENGLAND...

LISTEN--THE RECTORY BELL...THE SIGNAL THAT CRIME HAS STRUCK! QUICK-- WE MUST BECOME **THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE** TO STOP IT!

JUST AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**, OUR MODELS, ANSWER THEIR **BAT-SIGNAL!**



**MINUTES LATER, AS ENGLISH ROBBERS ATTEMPT A GETAWAY...**

**THE KNIGHT AND THE SQUIRE, ON THEIR MOTOR-CYCLE "HORSES"!** WE'RE CAUGHT COLD-- WE SURRENDER!

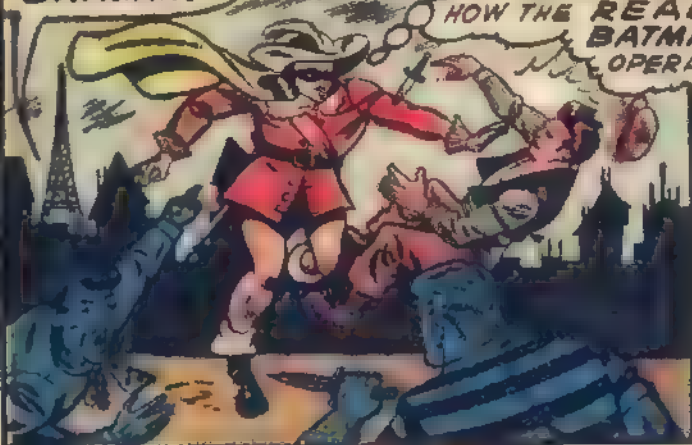
WE GOT THEM--BUT **BATMAN** WOULD HAVE CAUGHT THEM FASTER! HOW I'D LIKE TO SEE HIS METHODS IN ACTION, IN AMERICA!



**NOR ARE THESE ENGLISH "BATMEN" THE ONLY ONES WHO WISH THAT! IN FRANCE, IT'S THAT SECRET-IDENTITY LAWYMAN KNOWN ONLY AS--THE MUSKETEER...**

IT'S THAT CURSED **MUSKETEER**, WHO IMITATES THE AMERICAN **BATMAN!**

"IMITATES" IS CORRECT! BUT SOMEDAY I SHALL LEARN HOW THE REAL **BATMAN** OPERATES!



**AND IN ROME, THAT DREADED Foe OF CRIME WHO WEARS A COSTUME OF THE ANCIENT PAST AS...**

**THE LEGIONARY!** HE'S COME AGAIN FROM NOWHERE! VAULTING ON MY LANCE HELPS--BUT I WISH I KNEW HOW **BATMAN AND ROBIN** DO IT!



**EVEN IN DISTANT SOUTH AMERICA, THE GREAT BATMAN HAS FOUND A FOLLOWER...**

**THE GAUCHO** AND HIS **BOLO!** HE'S AN EXPERT WITH IT! BUT **BATMAN**, THEY SAY, IS EVEN MORE EXPERT WITH HIS **BAT-BOLO!** SOME DAY I SHALL SEE HIM!



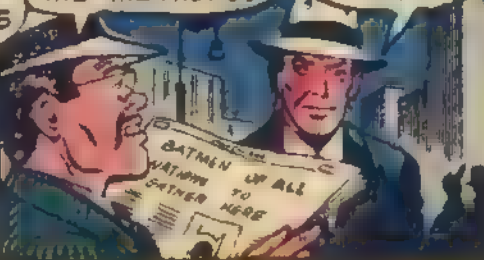
**IN FARAWAY AUSTRALIA, FINALLY, A "BATMAN" CALLED THE RANGER COMES UP WITH A PLAN...**

THAT'S THE LAST OF THE **DIGGER MOB** YOU'VE ROUNDED UP, **RANGER!** BUT **BATMAN'S** METHODS WOULD HAVE MADE THE JOB EASIER! I'M GOING TO WRITE AND ASK HIM IF HE'LL BRIEF US OTHER LAWYMEN IN HIS CRIME-FIGHTING METHODS!



**ALWAYS READY TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER BATMEN, THE ORIGINAL BATMAN ANSWERS PROMPTLY...**

**BATMAN** INVITED ALL THESE OTHER LAWYMEN TO COME HERE TO **GOTHAM CITY** AND LEARN HIS METHODS! **WOW!** WITH THAT BUNCH OF WORLD LAWYMEN HERE, CRIME WILL BE SCARED OUT!



**YET NO ONE DREAMS THAT THIS GATHERING OF "BATMEN" WILL CAUSE UNPRECEDENTED CRIME...**



... FOR IT HAS GIVEN "KNOTS" CARDINE, UNDERWORLD CHIEFTAIN, AN IDEA FOR THE GREATEST SCHEME OF HIS CAREER!

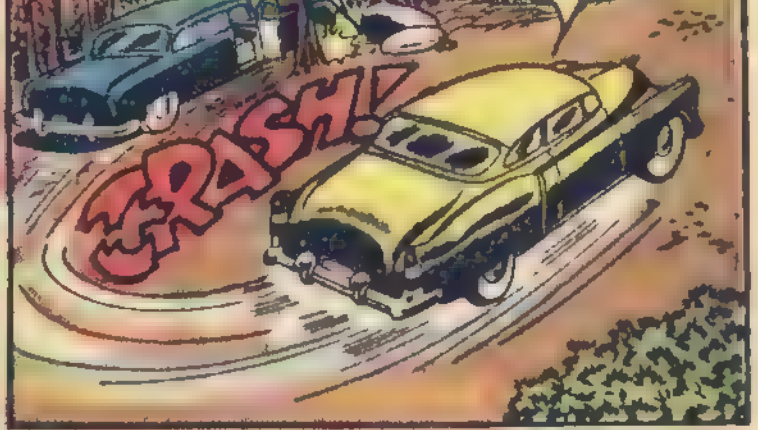
THERE GOES THE LAST "BATMAN" TO ARRIVE! AFTER HIS CAR--QUICK... FORCE IT OFF THE ROAD!

DON'T WORRY, BOSS... WE KNOW WHAT TO DO!

AND LATER, EVEN AS GOTHAM CITY PREPARES TO GREET THE "BATMEN" OF THE WORLD...

NOW THAT OUR PREPARATIONS ARE MADE, WE'LL PUT OUR PLAN INTO OPERATION!

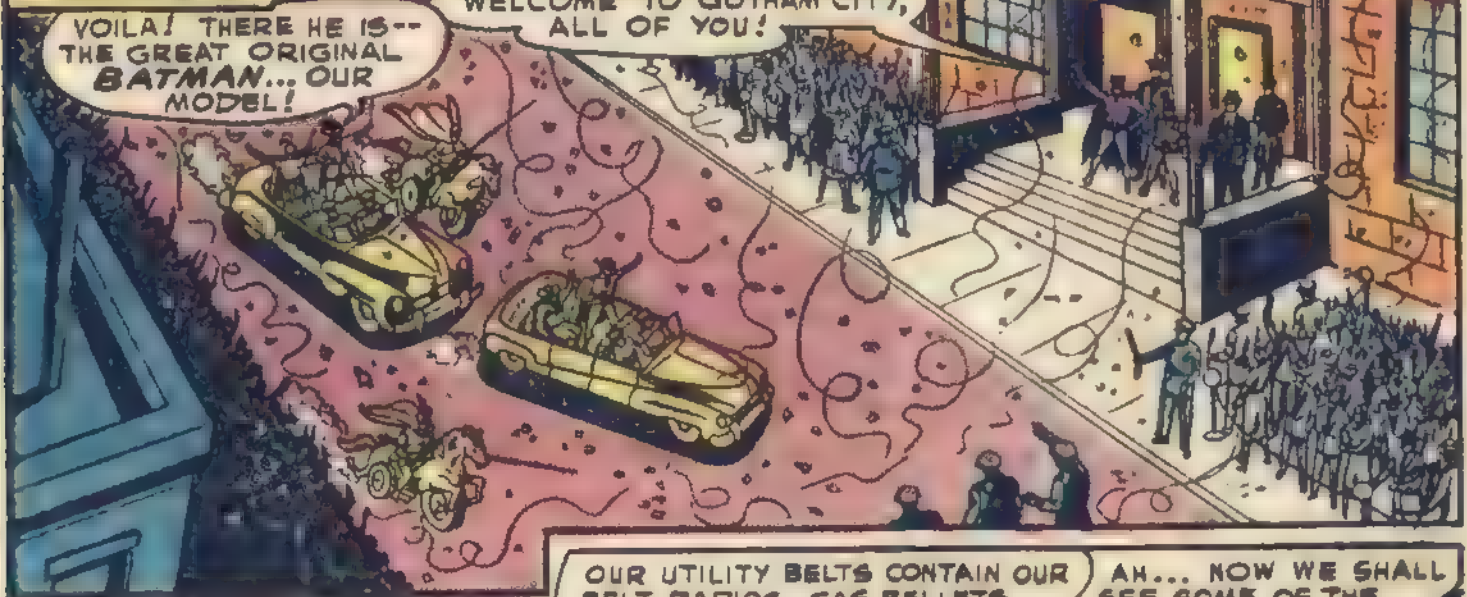
HA, HA-- INVITING THOSE OTHER LAWMEN HERE IS GOING TO BE THE END OF BATMAN!



PRESENTLY, AS GOTHAM CITY GIVES THE "BATMEN" OF OTHER LANDS A TRADITIONAL WELCOME...

VOILA! THERE HE IS-- THE GREAT ORIGINAL BATMAN... OUR MODEL!

WELCOME TO GOTHAM CITY, ALL OF YOU!



AND THAT EVENING, THE FOREIGN LAWMEN GET THEIR FIRST LESSON IN CRIME-BUSTING FROM THE GREATEST CRIME-BUSTER OF THEM ALL...

WE HAVE OUR SECRET IDENTITIES JUST AS YOU DO, BUT THIS BAT-SIGNAL CALLS US FROM WHEREVER WE ARE!

OUR UTILITY BELTS CONTAIN OUR BELT-RADIOS, GAS PELLETS, SMALL TOOLS, MINIATURE CAMERA, AND MANY OTHER DEVICES--AS WELL AS OUR SILK ROPES!

AH... NOW WE SHALL SEE SOME OF THE WORLD-FAMED ACROBATICS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!



ON THE ROOF, A FEW MINUTES LATER...

OUR ACROBATIC SKILL IS DESIGNED TO HIT CROOKS SWIFTLY AND UNEXPECTEDLY. BUT ONE MUST PRACTICE CONSTANTLY!

WAIT... LOOK, M'SIEU BATMAN! YOUR SIGNAL IS CALLING YOU NOW!







# DETECTIVE COMICS



SHORTLY, IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...

BATMAN, I CALLED YOU DOWN FROM THE ROOF TO HEAR THIS

AT THE VERY TIME WHEN THE "BATMEN" OF OTHER LANDS ARE HERE TO LEARN OUR BATMAN'S METHODS, A DEFIANT CHALLENGE HAS BEEN ISSUED!

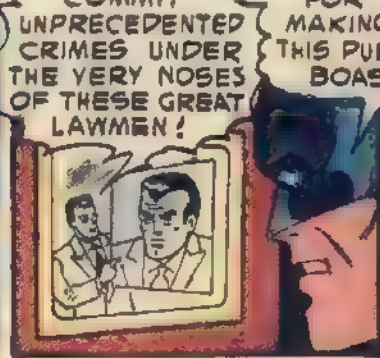
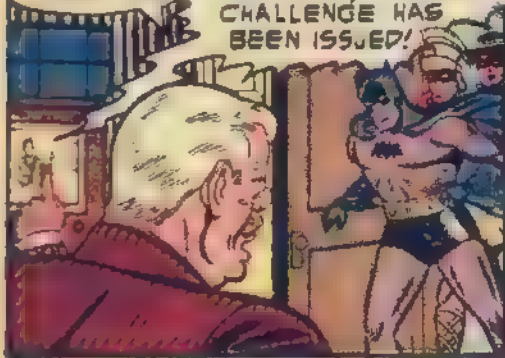
"KNOTS" CARDINE, MOST WANTED CRIMINAL IN GOTHAM CITY, HAS ISSUED A PUBLIC BOAST THAT HE WILL COMMIT UNPRECEDENTED CRIMES UNDER THE VERY NOSES OF THESE GREAT LAWMEN!

HMM... CARDINE IS A SHREWD CROOK! HE MUST HAVE SOME REASON FOR MAKING THIS PUBLIC BOAST!

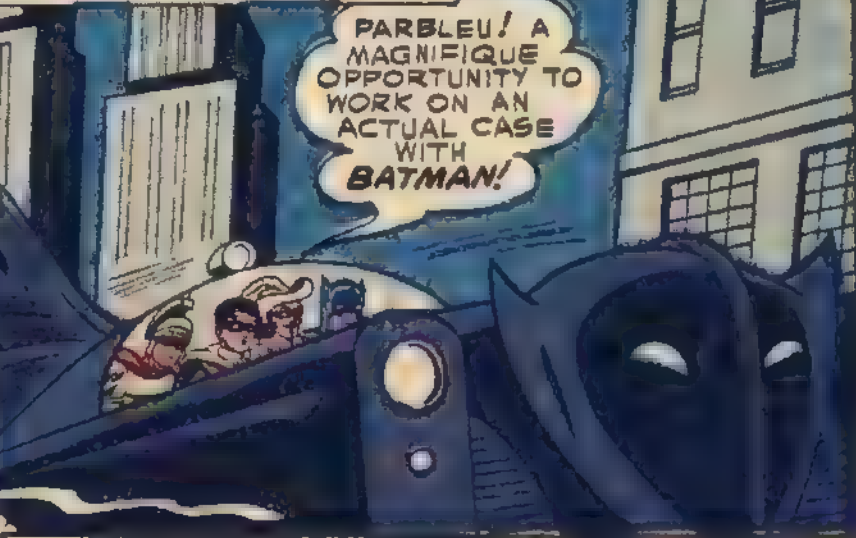
JUST THEN...

COMMISSIONER! AN INTERRUPTED PHONE CALL FROM THE GOTHAM BELL COMPANY! SOUNDED LIKE THE WATCHMAN CALLING FOR HELP!

WHAT...? COME ON... WE'LL GET THERE RIGHT AWAY!



OUT INTO THE NIGHT RACE THE INTERNATIONAL CRIME-FIGHTERS!



PARBLEU! A MAGNIFIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ON AN ACTUAL CASE WITH BATMAN!

BUT INSIDE THE GREAT BELL FACTORY, IT'S THE "BATMEN" WHO GET THE SURPRISE...

COMPLIMENTS OF "KNOTS" CARDINE!

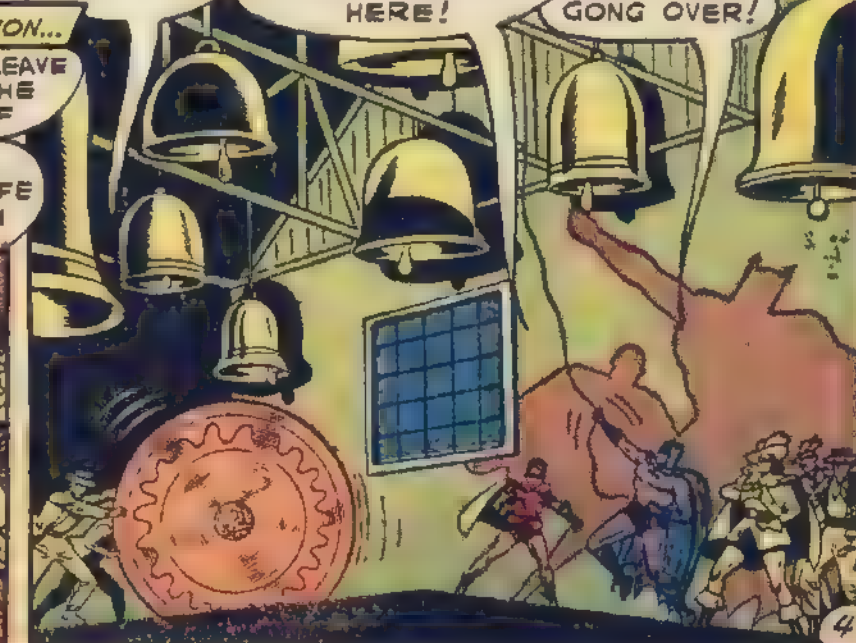
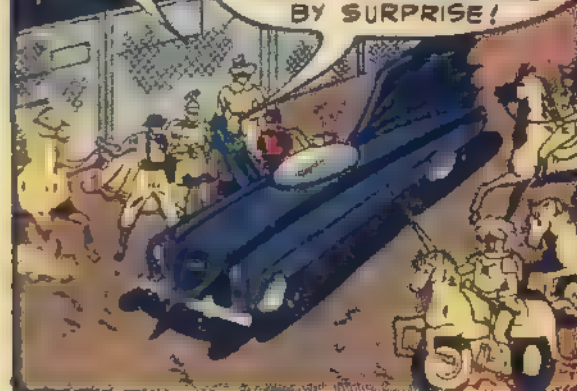
AN AMBUSH! THEY KNEW WE WERE COMING THROUGH HERE!

LOOK OUT! I'LL TRY TO KICK THE GONG OVER!

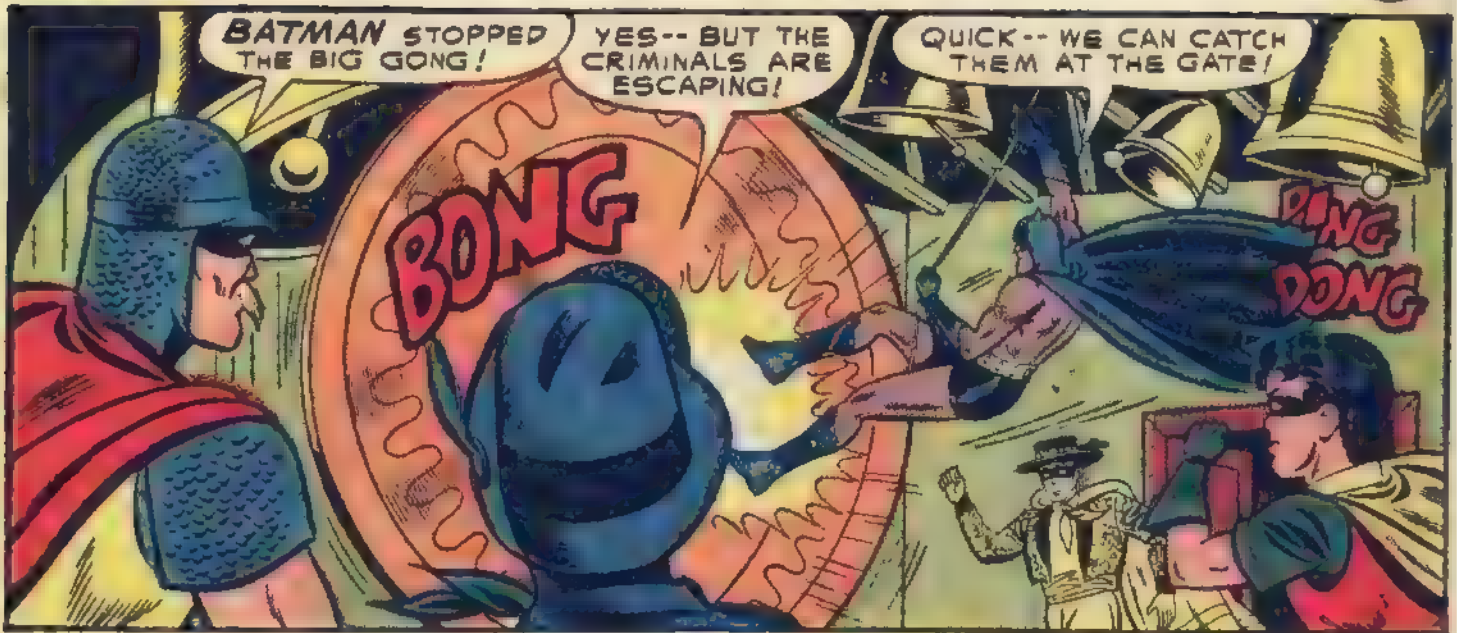
AND UPON REACHING THEIR DESTINATION...

PERHAPS, SIGNOR BATMAN, SOME OF US SHOULD GUARD THE GATES!

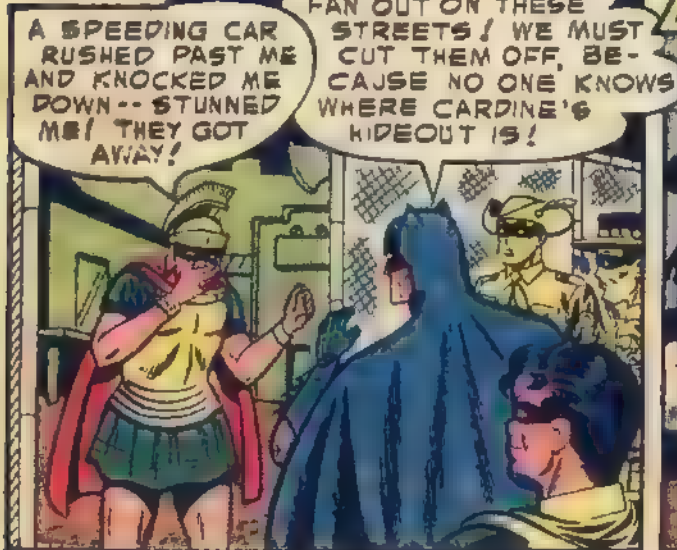
GOOD IDEA...I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOU AND THE KNIGHT! THE REST OF US WILL GO THROUGH THE FACTORY, TO THE OFFICE WHERE THE SAFE IS! THAT WAY, WE CAN TAKE THE ROBBERS BY SURPRISE!



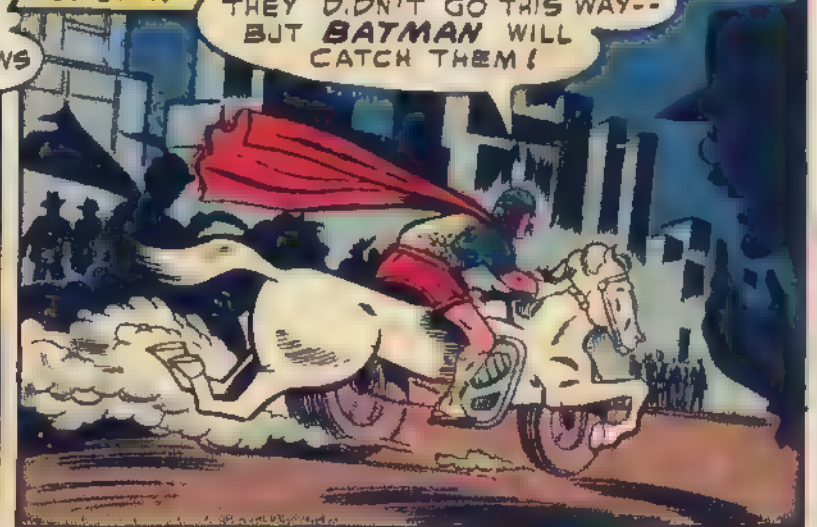




BUT AT THE GATE, STILL ANOTHER SET-BACK...



AND BEFORE THE STARTLED EYES OF PEDESTRIANS, THE STRANGE LAWMEY ROAR INTO ACTION...



THE RANGER AND THE GAUCHO ARE COVERING GOTHAM BOULEVARD!

WE'VE CHECKED ALL THE STREETS EXCEPT AN ALLEY THEY COULDN'T MAKE SPEED IN-- SO THEY MUST BE STRAIGHT AHEAD OF US!

BUT AS THOUGH OVER-HEARING **BATMAN'S** WORDS, THE CROOKS TAKE THAT ONE LOOP-HOLE OF ESCAPE...

**BATMAN** ISN'T COVERING THIS ALLEY SO WE CAN DOUBLE BACK ALONG IT AND PULL THE NEXT JOB!

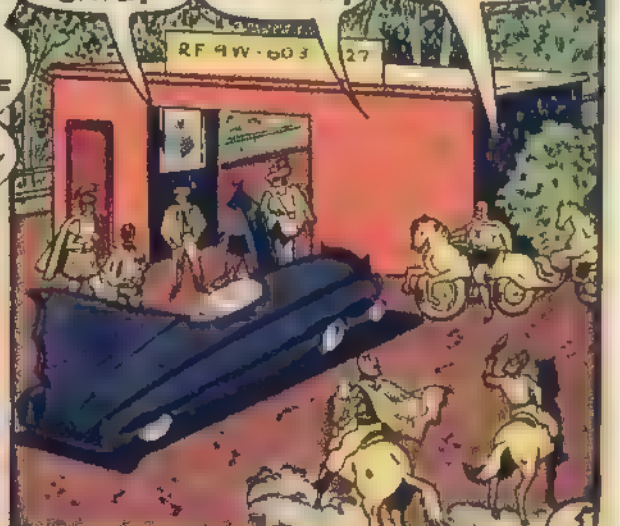
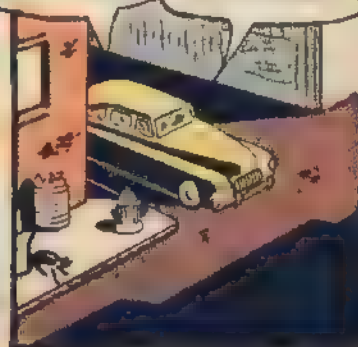
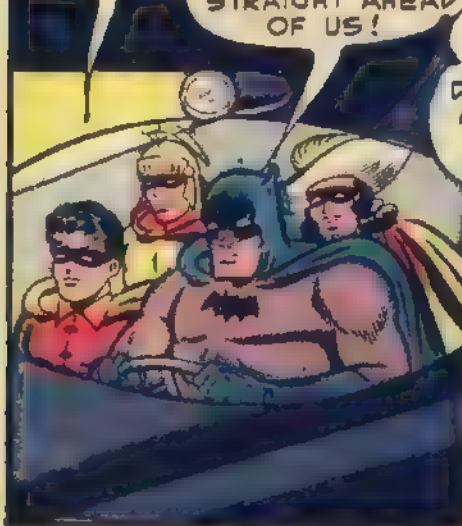
IHA, HA-- WE'RE SURE MAKING **BATMAN** LOOK BAD IN FRONT OF THESE VISITING "BATMEN"!

AND THE JUBILANT CROOK IS NOT FAR FROM WRONG...

NO CAR LIKE THAT WENT THROUGH THIS TOLL-GATE!

THEY DIDN'T TAKE OUR STREET EITHER!

NOR OURS! THEY SLIPPED BACK PAST YOU, **BATMAN!**







# DETECTIVE COMICS



THUS, BACK AT HEADQUARTERS, THE LAWMEN FACE A BAFFLING PROBLEM...

THEN "KNOTS" CARDINE GOT CLEAR AWAY-- AND WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HIS HIDEOUT IS!

IT'S AS THOUGH THEY KNEW JUST WHAT WE WERE GOING TO DO!

THESE AMERICAN CROOKS-- THEY SEEM TO BE TOO MUCH EVEN FOR BATMAN!

WE MUST GET CARDINE FAST! TOMORROW, GOTHAM BANK IS TRANSFERRING MILLIONS IN CURRENCY TO ITS NEW BRANCH! EVEN THOUGH YOU ARRANGED TO GUARD IT, BATMAN, CARDINE MAY ATTEMPT TO ROB IT!

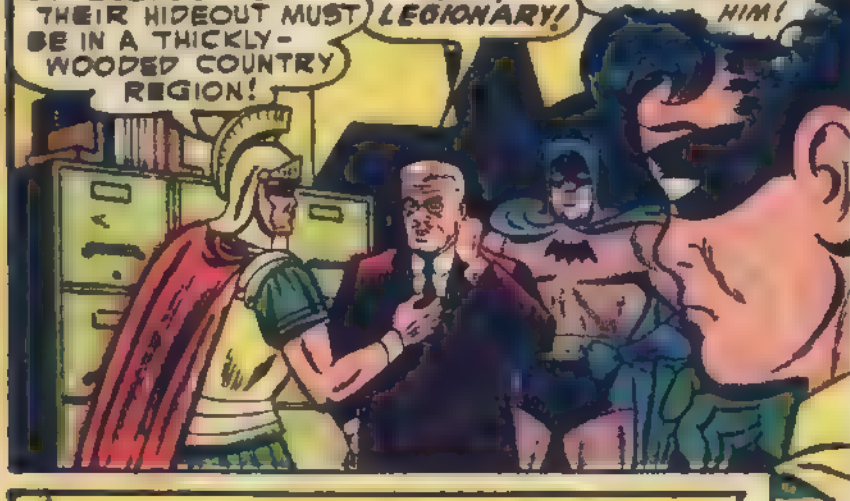


I HAVE ONE CLUE! THE CRIMINAL'S CAR WAS SCRATCHED ON THE SIDE, AS THOUGH BY BUSHES-- SO THEIR HIDEOUT MUST BE IN A THICKLY-WOODED COUNTRY REGION!

GOLLY... BATMAN ISN'T SHOWING UP VERY WELL BEFORE THESE FOREIGN LAWMEN! IT'S NOT LIKE HIM!

THAT SHOULD HELP, LEGIONARY!

YOU CAN ISSUE A GENERAL ALARM FOR A CAR OF THAT DESCRIPTION, WITH A SCRATCHED SIDE! WE'LL PATROL THE CITY ALSO, IN SEARCH OF IT! IT'S OUR ONLY CLUE!



AND AS THE CITY-WIDE SEARCH BEGINS...

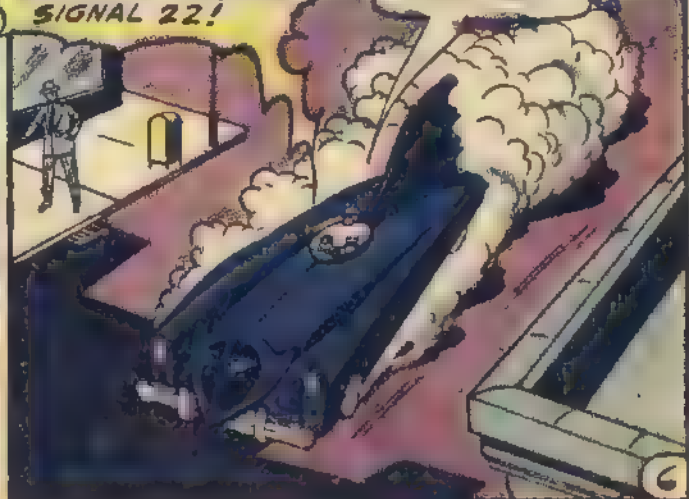
THE ONLY CLUE WE SPOTTED WAS BY THE LEGIONARY! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE GREAT BATMAN IS NOT SO CLEVER AS WE THOUGHT?

DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS! REMEMBER HIS BRILLIANT RECORD-- THOUGH MAYBE THIS CARDINE IS A SMARTER CROOK THAN ANY HE EVER FACED!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY...

FLASH BULLETIN! SIGNAL 22 AT WORLD CIRCUS! SIGNAL 22!

SIGNAL 22... THAT'S ROBBERY! WE'RE NOT FAR FROM THE CIRCUS! HANG ON!





WHILE AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...

THOSE CROOKS... THEY HOOKED ONTO THE CASHIER'S MONEY WAGON AND ARE TOWING IT AWAY!



AND ONCE AGAIN, AS THOUGH ENDOWED WITH UNCANNY FORESIGHT, ESCAPING CRIMINALS AVOID THE BATMOBILE AS IT RACES TO THE RESCUE...

BATMAN'S COMING AROUND THE NEXT BLOCK! DODGE IN HERE, QUICK!



SOON...

YES, THE CAR THAT TOWED THE CASHIER'S WAGON AWAY HAD SCRATCHED SIDES!

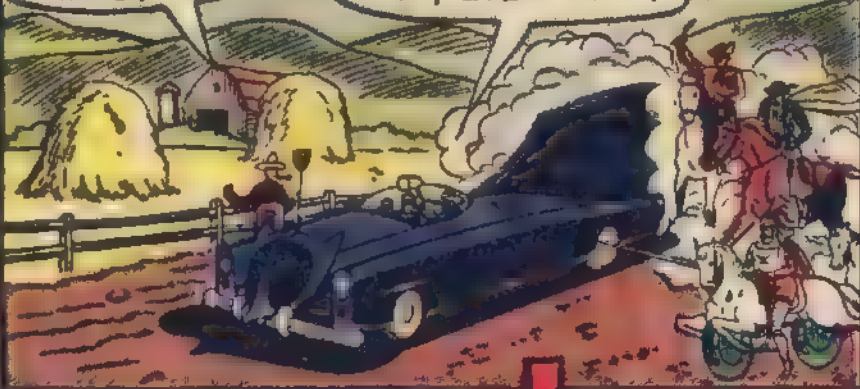
THEN IT WAS ANOTHER OF CARDINE'S JOBS! BUT HE'S A BIG OPERATOR... IT'S NOT LIKE HIM TO BOTHER WITH THE FEW THOUSANDS IN AN OFFICE SAFE OR A CIRCUS WAGON!



AND AS THE LAWMEN TAKE UP THE TRAIL...

SURE I SAW A CIRCUS WAGON... IT WENT UP INTO THOSE HILLS!

IT SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO FIND THOSE DOUBLE TRACKS ON THE DIRT ROADS! SPREAD OUT, EVERYBODY!



AGAIN, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT BATMAN BUT THE LEGIONARY WHO SPOTS A CLUE TO THE TRAIL...

SEE? THOSE BUSHES ARE THE SAME HEIGHT AS THE SCRATCHES I SAW ON THE CROOKS' CAR! IT MUST BE THE ROAD THEY USUALLY TAKE!

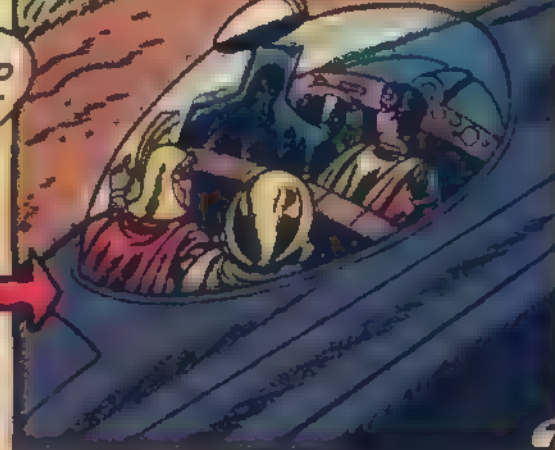
LOOKS LIKE IT! MUSKETEER, YOU GO BACK AND TELL THE OTHERS TO FOLLOW US UP THIS WAY!



BUT AS THE SEARCH BEGINS...

HMM... NO SUCH TRACKS ON THIS ROAD! ER... IT SEEMS TO ME THAT BATMAN IS RATHER FOBBLING THIS CASE, WHAT?

I'M A BIT DASHED BY HIS FAILURE TO STOP THIS CARDINE, YES-- BUT HE'LL COME UP WITH SOMETHING CLEVER SOON, OLD CHAP... I'M SURE OF IT!





**WITHIN A FEW MINUTES...**

LOOK! THE DOUBLE TRACKS OF THE CROOKS' CAR AND THE MONEY-WAGON GO UP TO THAT OLD HOUSE!

IT MUST BE THEIR SECRET HIDEOUT! COME ON!

BUT SHOULDN'T ONE OF US STAY HERE, IN CASE ANY OF THEM TRY TO ESCAPE THIS WAY?

THE LEGIONARY IS RIGHT! YOU STAY HERE WITH HIM, ROBIN!

BUT IN THE NEXT INSTANT...

**BOOM!**

WHY.. THE WHOLE HOUSE EXPLODED TO BITS!

BATMAN! BATMAN!

SILENTLY, BATMAN APPROACHES A HOUSE OF SINISTER PERIL...

THAT OLD PORCH LAMP... THE LENS IN ITS SIDE SHOWS IT'S A DISGUISED ELECTRIC-EYE BEAM! CARDINE CERTAINLY USES MODERN DEVICES! I'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL!

ONLY PULVERIZED, SMOKING DEBRIS GREETS THE HORRIFIED ROBIN, WHEN HE RACES UP THE HILL...

WHY, THE PLACE MUST HAVE BEEN A GIANT BOOBY-TRAP, SET OFF BY BATMAN WHEN HE ENTERED!

A DEATH-TRAP THAT "KNOTS" CARDINE SET FOR HIM! HE DEFIED BATMAN PUBLICLY BECAUSE HE WANTED HIM TO FIND THIS FAKE HIDEOUT-- AND BE DESTROYED!

THUS, A HEADLINE NO ONE EVER DREAMED OF READING SOON FLARES ACROSS GOTHAM CITY...

IT'S INCREDIBLE, BUT TRUE! BATMAN FINALLY HAS MET HIS DOOM!



AND NOWHERE IS GRIEF GREATER THAN AMONG THE LAWMEN WHO TOOK **BATMAN** AS THEIR MODEL...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! **BATMAN** COULDN'T DIE LIKE THAT!

HE WAS A GREAT MAN-- BUT ONLY HUMAN! IT IS UP TO US, THE "**BATMEN**" OF OTHER LANDS, TO GET HIS KILLER!

I BELIEVE "**KNOTS**" CARDINE SET THIS DEATH-TRAP TO REMOVE **BATMAN** SO HE COULD STRIKE AT THAT BANK-CURRENCY TRANSFERAL **BATMAN** WAS TO GUARD!

YOU'RE RIGHT, **LEGIONARY**! CARDINE KNEW HE COULDN'T ROB THAT WITH **BATMAN** GUARDING IT!



THEN **WE** WILL GUARD IT! AND IF CARDINE TRIES TO STRIKE, **WE** WILL GET OUR VENGEANCE ON **BATMAN'S** SLAYER!

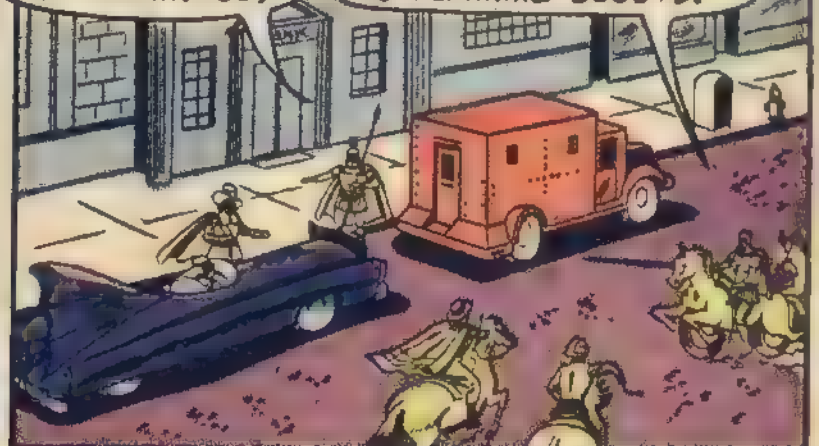
FINE! **LEGIONARY**, YOU SEEM THE LOGICAL ONE TO LEAD YOUR FELLOW "**BATMEN**" IN GUARDING THAT SHIPMENT!

OUI!

SO WHEN MILLIONS IN CASH BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY TO A NEW BRANCH BANK, THEY HAVE A GRIM GUARD...

STAY WELL BACK, **ROBIN**, TO BLOCK ANY CROOKS WHO TRY TO COME UP BEHIND US!

**THE SQUIRE** AND I WILL RIDE AHEAD, AND **THE GAUCHO** AND **THE RANGER** CAN ACT AS FLANKING SCOUTS!



AWHILE LATER, AS THE CAVALCADE WINDS OUT TOWARD A NEARBY SUBURBAN TOWN...

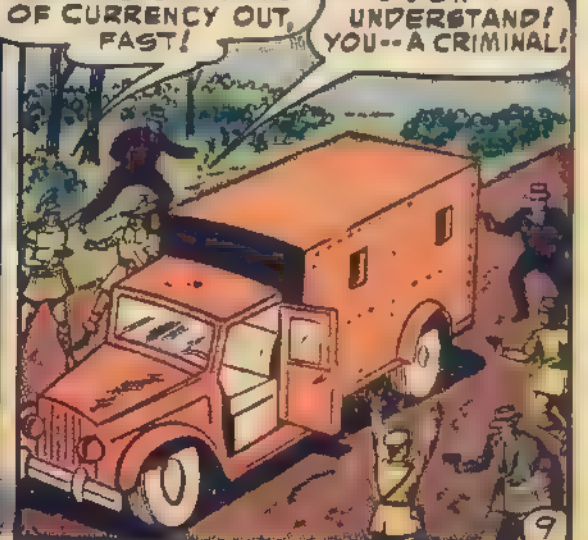
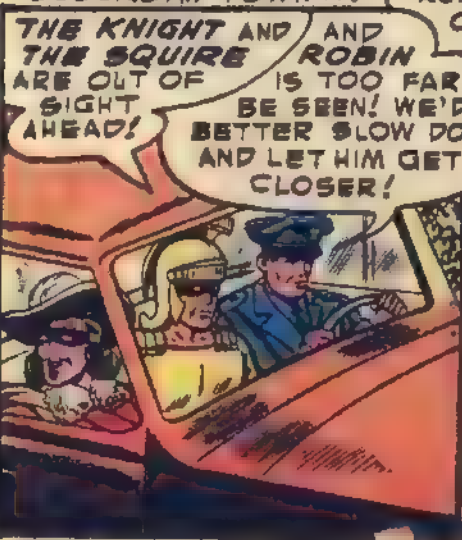
NO, **WE** WON'T! TURN OFF THIS NEXT SIDE-ROAD FAST, OR I'LL SHOOT!

**LEGIONARY**, HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?

FAR FROM CRAZY, **THE LEGIONARY** KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT HE'S DOING...

GET THE BIG BAGS OF CURRENCY OUT, FAST!

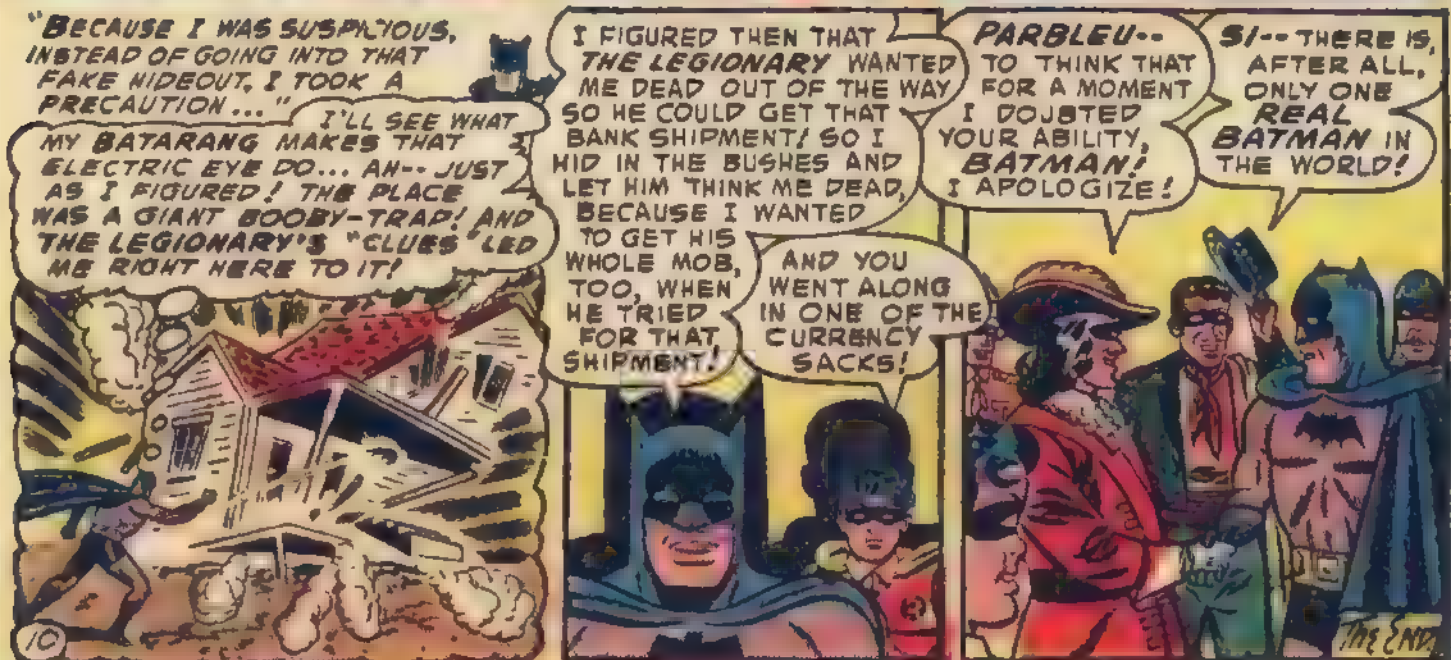
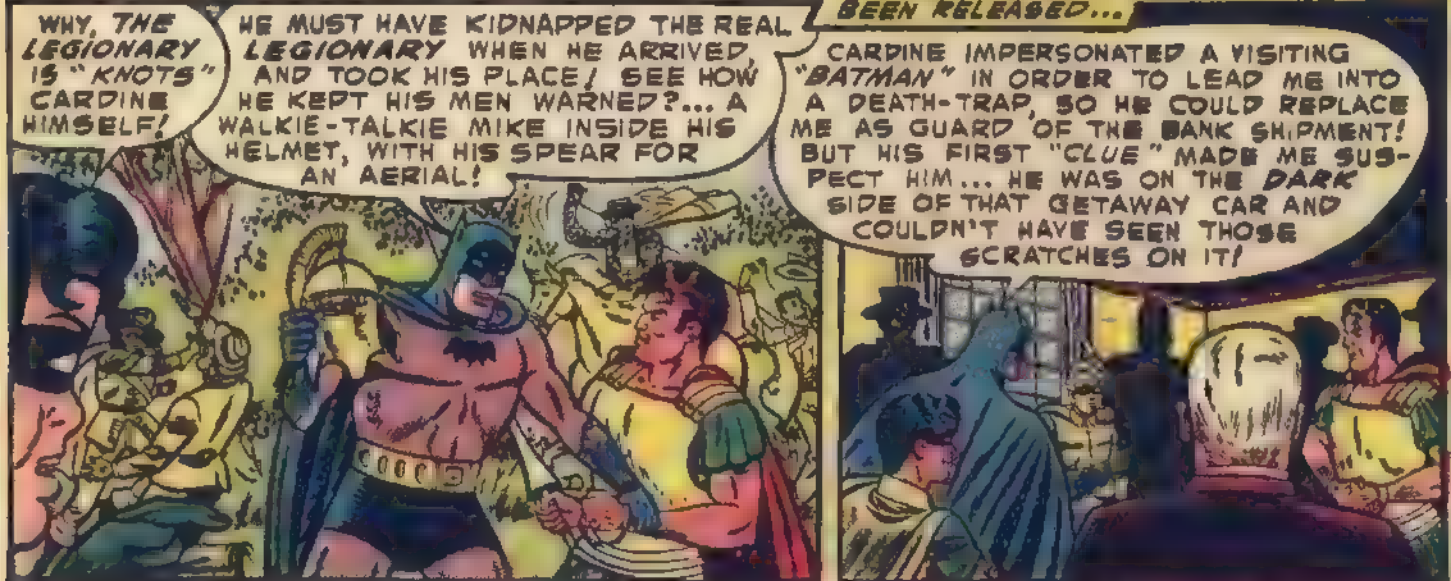
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! YOU--A CRIMINAL!







AND AS WHIRLWIND CRIME-FIGHTERS, FROM ALL LANDS, POUNCE ON THE STUNNED CROOKS... PRESENTLY, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, AFTER THE REAL LEGIONARY HAS BEEN RELEASED...







10c

In this issue: DETAILS and ENTRY BLANK for  
**Giant 5000 PRIZE CONTEST!**

SEPT. NO. 235

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

# Detective COMICS

YES, ROBIN--  
THE MAN  
WEARING THAT  
OLD-FASHIONED  
BATMAN COSTUME  
WAS MY FATHER!



FEATURING  
DO THE  
**First**  
BATMAN!



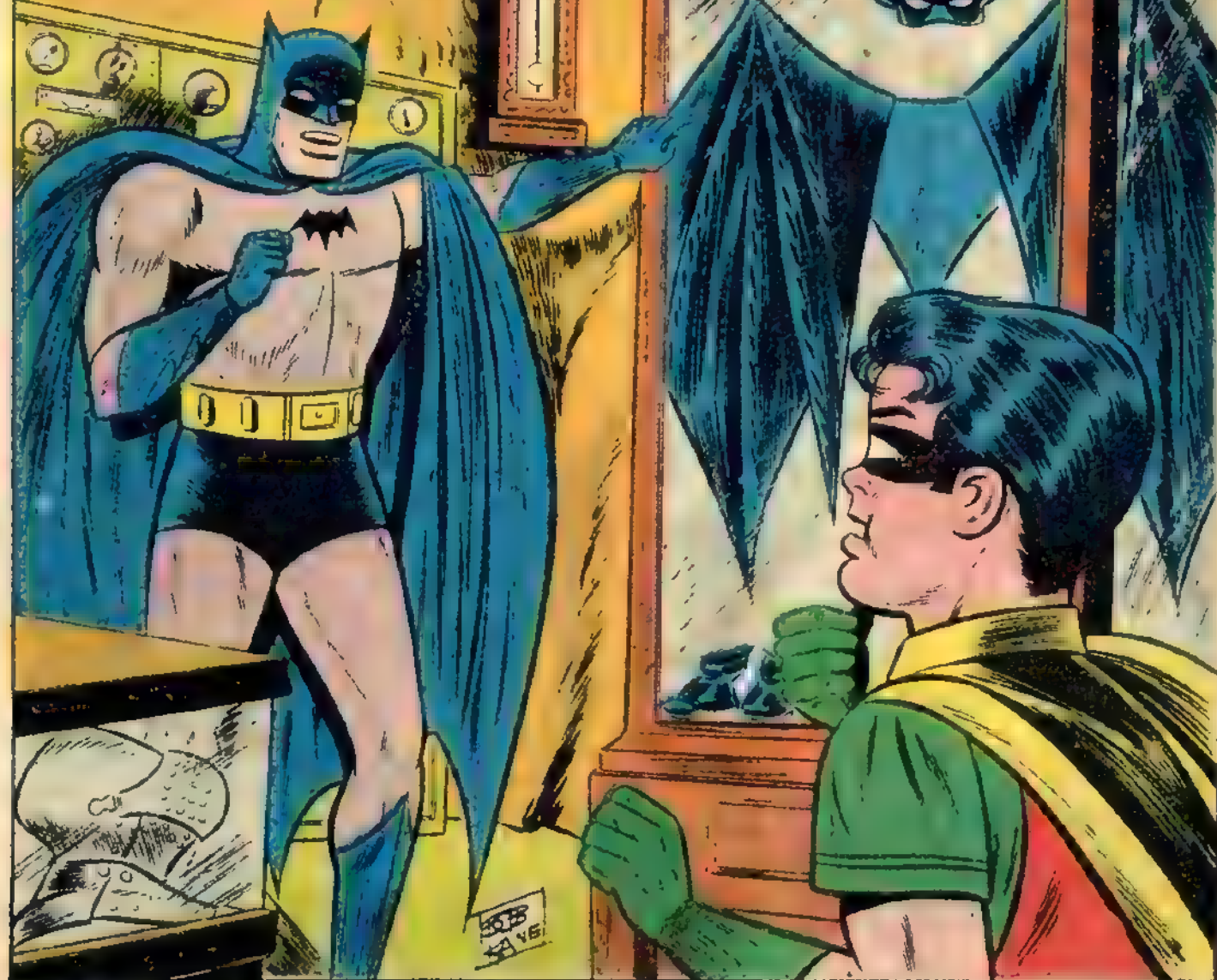
# BATMAN

AND  
ROBIN

IN AN HONORED SPACE IN THE BAT-CAVE'S  
FAVED TROPHY ROOM HANGS A STRANGE  
VEY ODDLY FAMILIAR GARB--THE COSTUME  
OF **ANOTHER BATMAN!** IMPOSSIBLE, YOU  
SAY?-- BRUCE WAYNE IS THE ONE AND ONLY  
THE ORIGINAL **BATMAN!** WELL... HE IS--  
AND HE **ISN'T!** READ ON, AND YOU'LL  
LEARN THE ASTONISHING ANSWER TO THE  
PARADOX--READ ON, AND YOU'LL LEARN  
THE INSIDE STORY OF...

## THE FIRST BATMAN

THERE IT IS,  
**ROBIN--** THE  
COSTUME OF A  
**BATMAN** WHO  
FOUGHT CRIME  
EVEN BEFORE I STARTED  
MY OWN CAREER AS A  
CRIME-FIGHTER!



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ONE DAY, AS BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, CLEAN OUT THEIR ATTIC...

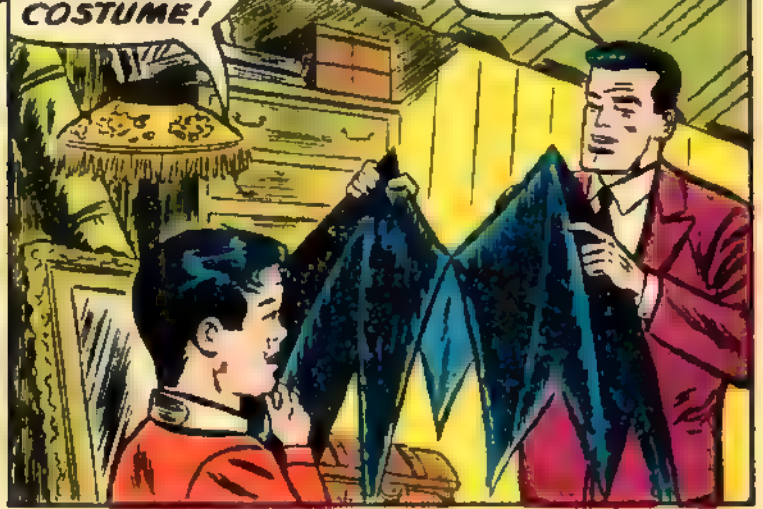
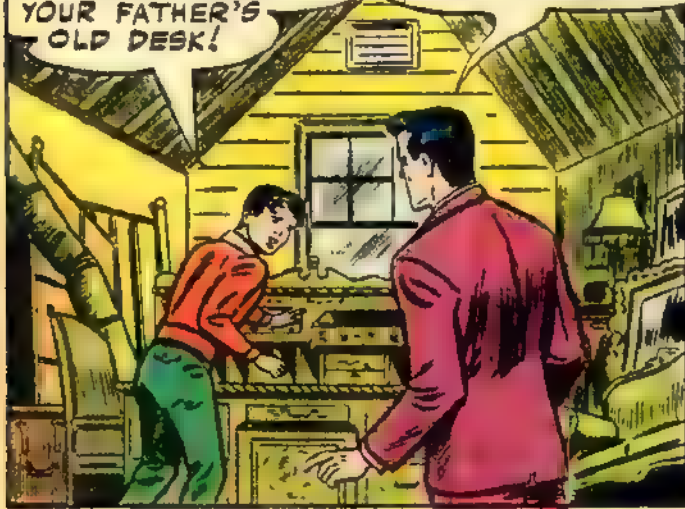
TO HIS SURPRISE, BRUCE WITHDRAWS A FANTASTIC GARMENT...

BRUCE! 'LOOK! I MUST HAVE TOUCHED A HIDDEN SPRING IN YOUR FATHER'S OLD DESK!

A SECRET DRAWER! AND THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE IT!

IT'S... A KIND OF **BATMAN COSTUME!**

DICK, I THINK I'VE SEEN THIS COSTUME BEFORE-- ON MY **FATHER**--LONG, LONG AGO!

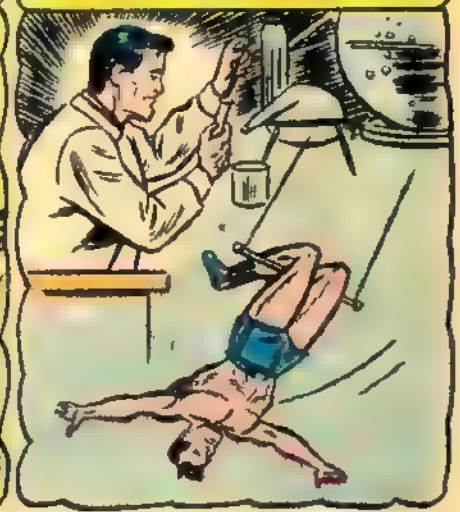
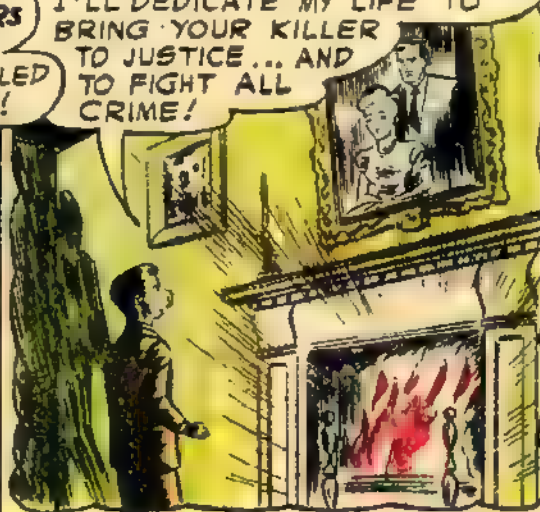
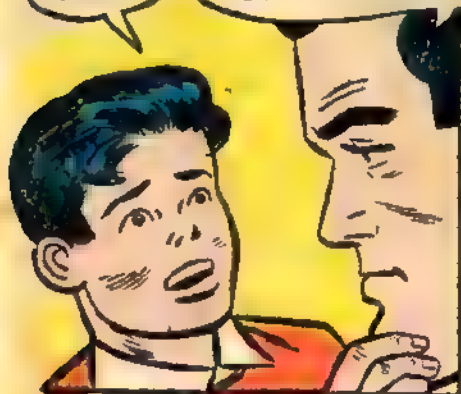


THEN THAT MEANS **YOUR FATHER WAS A "BATMAN" BEFORE YOU!**

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I WAS THE FIRST **"BATMAN"**! I ADOPTED THE FIRST **BATMAN COSTUME YEARS AFTER** I SAW MY PARENTS KILLED BY A ROBBER!

**B**RUCE'S THOUGHTS WHIRL BACK TO WHEN HE WAS A BOY AND MADE A PROMISE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS PARENTS... I'LL DEDICATE MY LIFE TO BRING YOUR KILLER TO JUSTICE... AND TO FIGHT ALL CRIME!

AS YEARS PASSED, BRUCE MASTERED SCIENTIFIC CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION... TRAINED HIS BODY TO ATHLETIC PERFECTION...

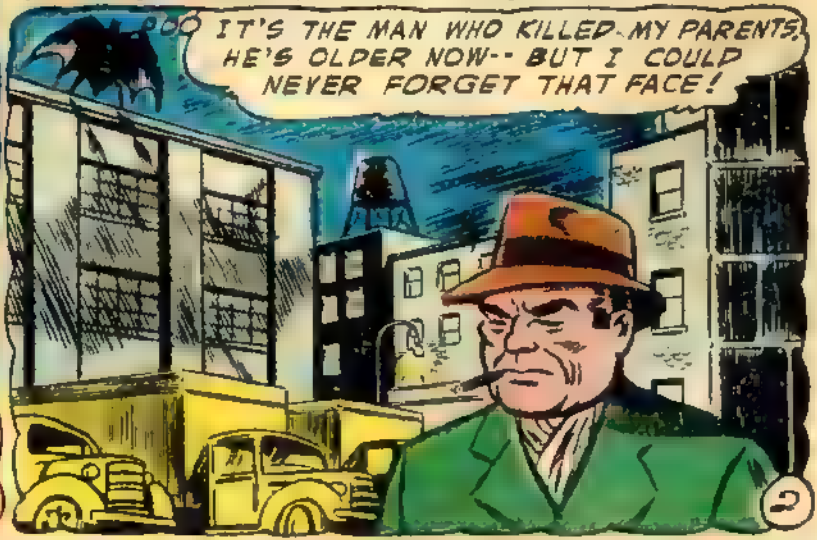
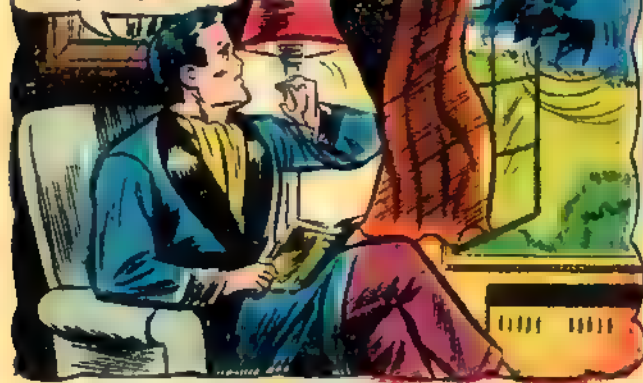


ONE NIGHT, HE WAS AT LAST READY FOR HIS CHOSEN CAREER, BUT HE NEEDED A DISGUISE THAT WOULD STRIKE TERROR INTO CRIMINAL HEARTS...

YEARS PASSED, AND **BATMAN** NEVER GAVE UP HIS SEARCH FOR THE KILLER! THEN ONE DAY, WHILE INVESTIGATING A CRIMINAL NAMED JOEY CHILL...

A BAT-- IT'S FLOWN IN THE WINDOW! IT'S LIKE AN OMEN! I SHALL BECOME A **BAT-- A BATMAN!**

IT'S THE MAN WHO KILLED MY PARENTS. HE'S OLDER NOW-- BUT I COULD NEVER FORGET THAT FACE!





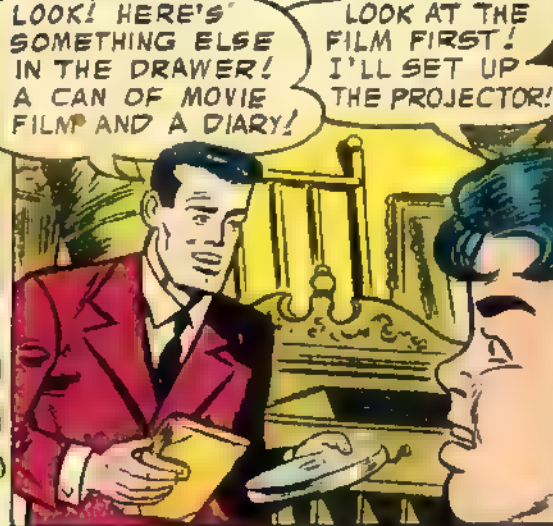
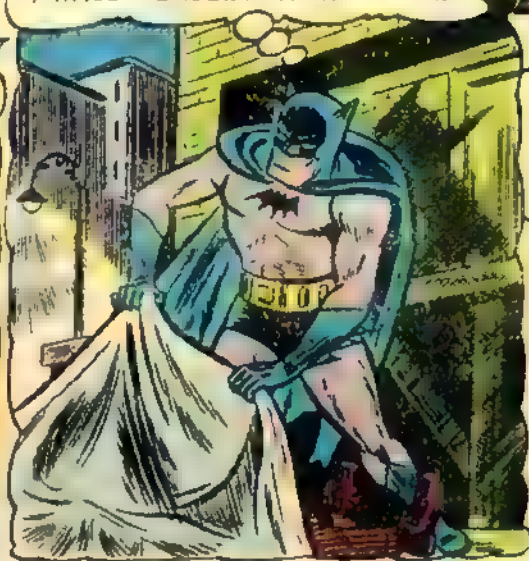
BUT, IRONICALLY, JOEY CHILL WAS SHOT DOWN BY OTHER MOBSTERS WHO HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST HIM...

HE'S DEAD! HIS OWN CRIMES FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH HIM!

THIS THEN, WAS THE ORIGIN OF **BATMAN**! THEN HOW COULD HIS FATHER HAVE BEEN A **BATMAN** BEFORE HIM?

LOOK! HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE IN THE DRAWER! A CAN OF MOVIE FILM AND A DIARY!

LET'S LOOK AT THE FILM FIRST! I'LL SET UP THE PROJECTOR!

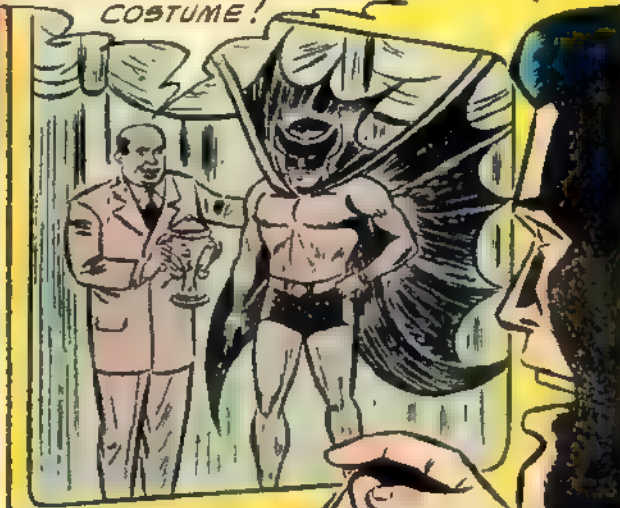
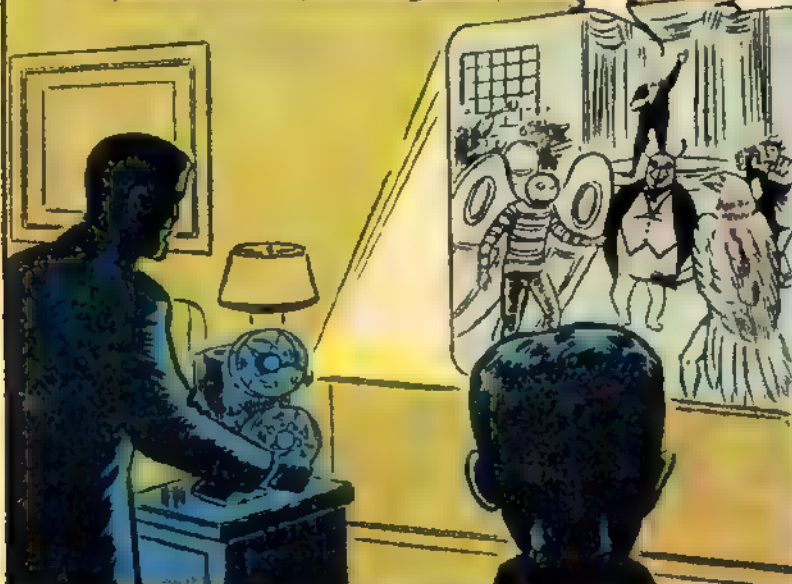


SOON, THE TWO VIEW AN EPISODE FROM THE PAST...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S MASQUERADE BALL IS "FLYING CREATURES"!

AND OUR FIRST PRIZE FOR THE BEST "FLYING CREATURE" COSTUME GOES TO DR. THOMAS WAYNE FOR HIS **BAT-MAN** COSTUME!

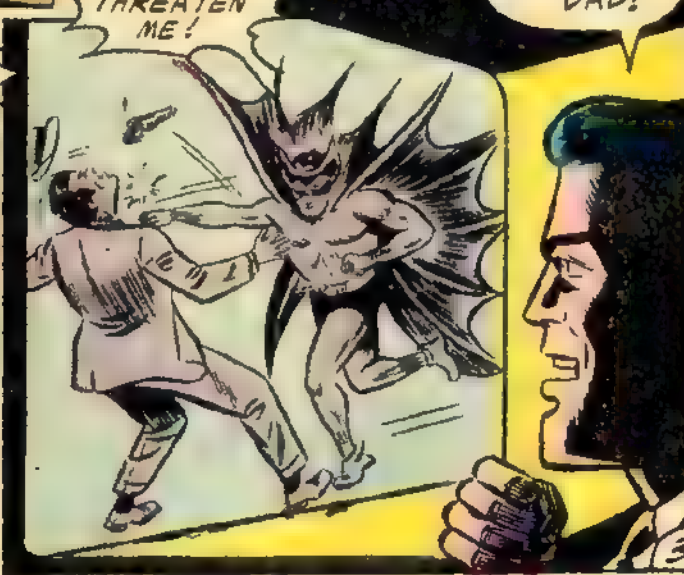
MY FATHER!



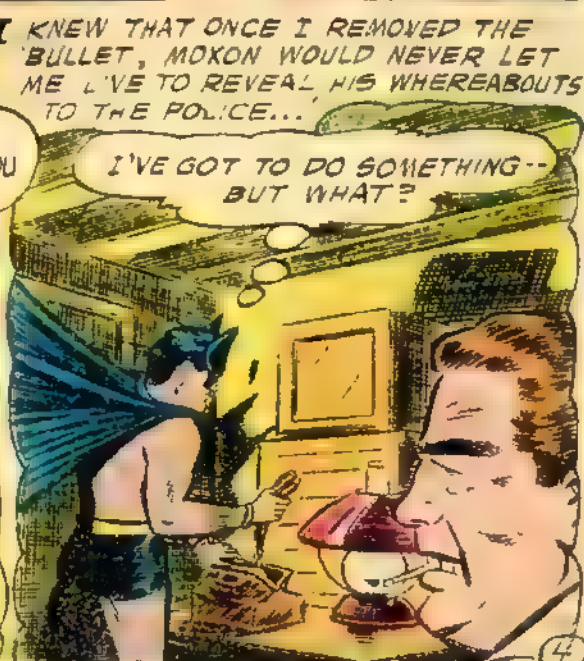
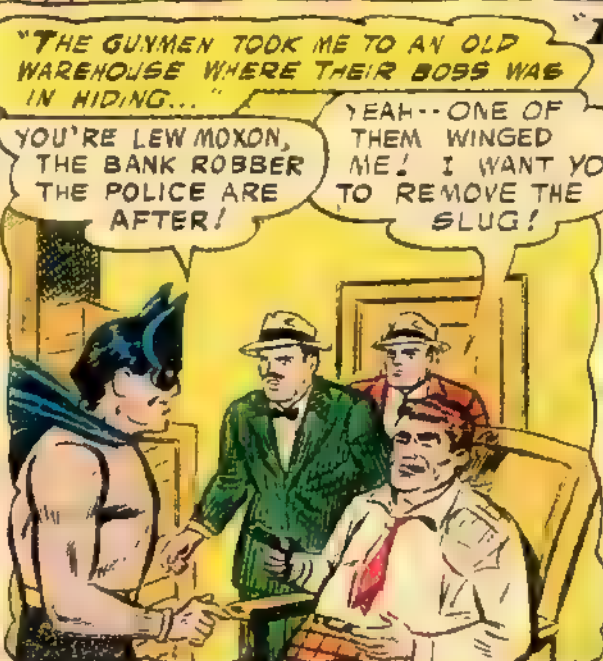
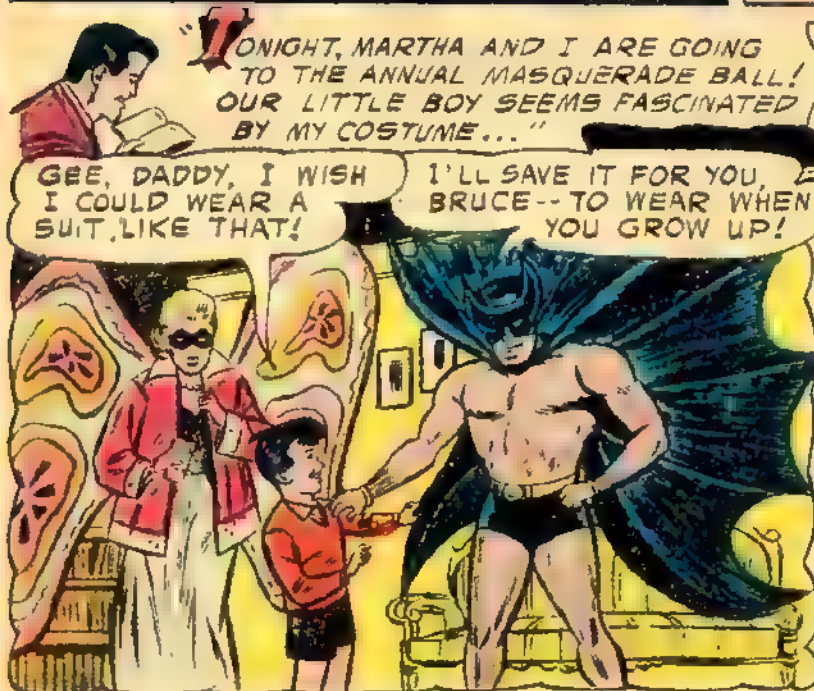
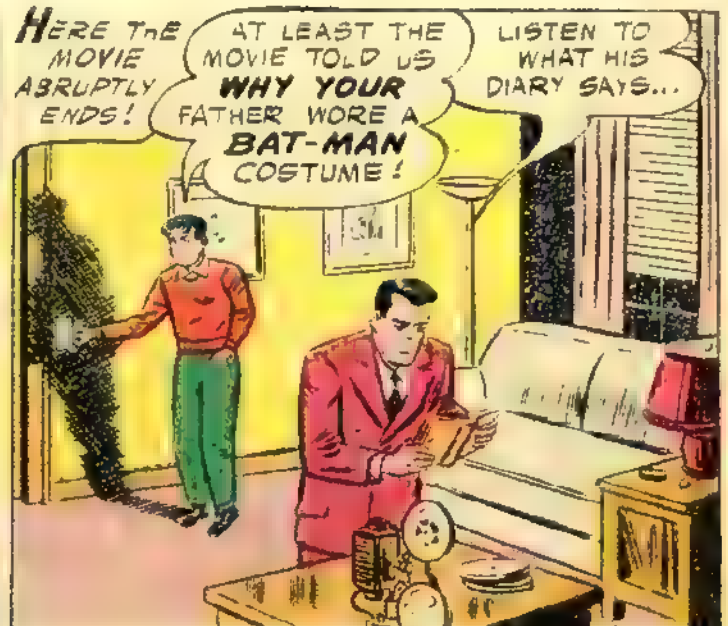
YOU CAN'T THREATEN ME!

ATTABOY, DAD!

SUDDENLY... WE FIGURED THERE'D BE A DOC IN THIS CROWD! COME ON, DOC-- WE NEED YOU! MAKE IT SNAPPY!







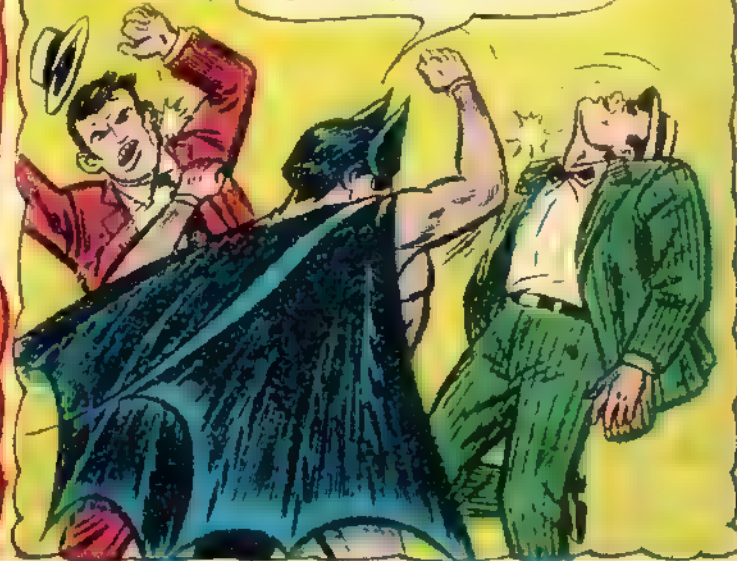


"I SUDDENLY HOOKED ONE FOOT AROUND MOXON'S CHAIR AND..."



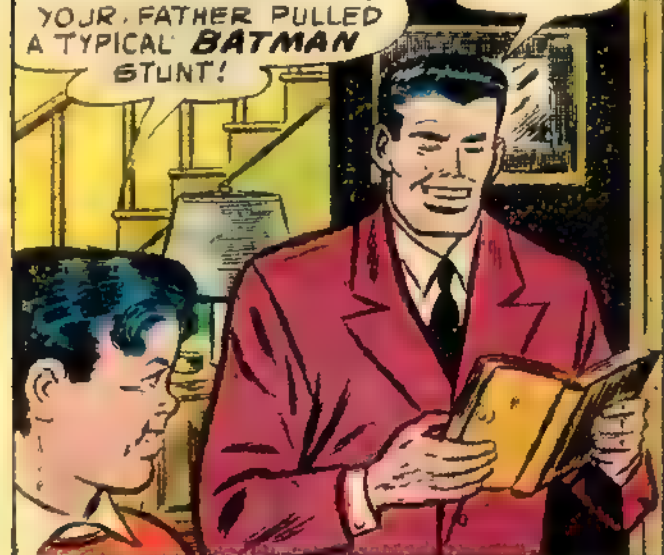
"THAT LEFT ONLY TWO HOODLUMS TO DEAL WITH!"

"I'LL LET THE POLICE TAKE OVER FROM HERE!"



WOW! EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY TRAINING IN FIGHTING CROOKS, YOUR FATHER PULLED A TYPICAL **BATMAN** STUNT!

MY FATHER WAS QUITE A GUY!



THE DIARY CONTINUES--"AT HIS TRIAL, MOXON WAS SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS FOR ARMED ROBBERY..."

"YOU DID THIS TO ME! I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, WAYNE-- I'LL GET YOU!"



"TEN YEARS ROLLED BY! I'D INVESTED MY SAVINGS WISELY AND BECAME WEALTHY! I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN MOXON UNTIL TODAY..."

**MOXON-- FREE!**

YEAH--I SERVED MY TEN YEARS IN JAIL-- WHERE YOU PUT ME! I SWORE I'D GET YOU, AND I WILL!

BUT I'M TOO SMART TO DO IT MYSELF! THE POLICE WOULD ARREST ME ON SUSPICION FAST! I'LL GET SOMEONE ELSE TO DO IT FOR ME!

**HERE THE DIARY ENDS!**

THIS MEANS JOEY CHILL ONLY **PRETENDED** TO BE A HOLDUP MAN-- ACTUALLY HE WAS MOXON'S **HIRED KILLER!** MOXON MUST HAVE ORDERED CHILL **NOT** TO KILL ME, TOO-- SO I'D BE ALIVE TO TESTIFY THAT MY PARENTS WERE KILLED BY A ROBBER!







# DETECTIVE COMICS



**GOSH, BRUCE-- MOXON USED YOU AS HIS ALIBI!!**

**HE USED ME AS A COVERUP FOR HIS DELIBERATE MURDER OF MY PARENTS! PUT ON YOUR COSTUME, DICK-- WE'VE JUST REOPENED THE WAYNE MURDER CASE!**

**LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...**

**COMMISSIONER, I'D LIKE TO KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF LEW MOXON!**

**I'LL HAVE THIS TELE- PHOTOED TO EVERY POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE COUNTRY!**

**AND WHEN THE INFORMATION COMES...**

**MOXON IS NOW IN THE BILLBOARD BLIMP BUSINESS OUT WEST-- IN COASTAL CITY!**

**SOON AFTER, THE SLEEK BATPLANE RACES THROUGH THE SKIES...**

**WHY DID YOU HAVE ME BRING ALONG YOUR FATHER'S COSTUME, BATMAN?**

**IT GIVES ME THE FEELING THAT MY FATHER IS WITH ME ON THIS CASE!**

**HOURS LATER, AT THEIR DESTINATION, TWO FIGURES MOVE LIKE SHADOWS TOWARDS A BLIMP HANGAR...**

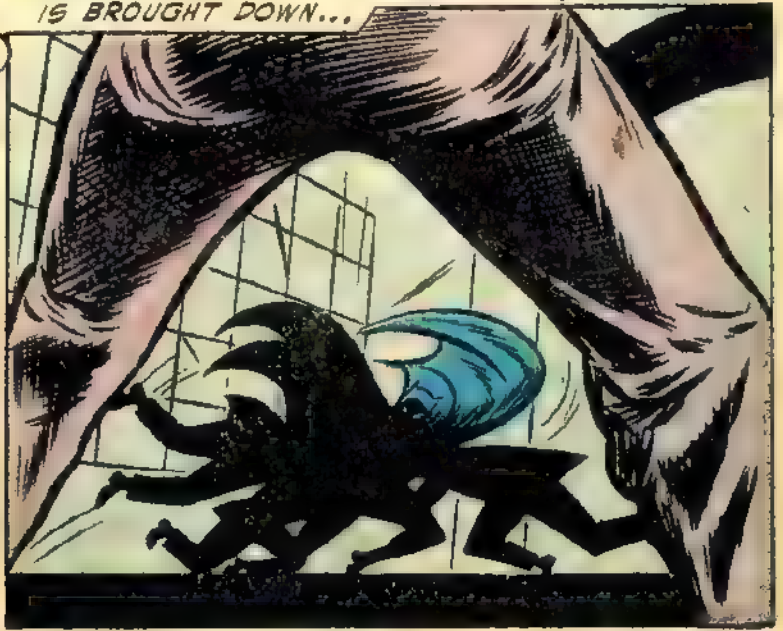
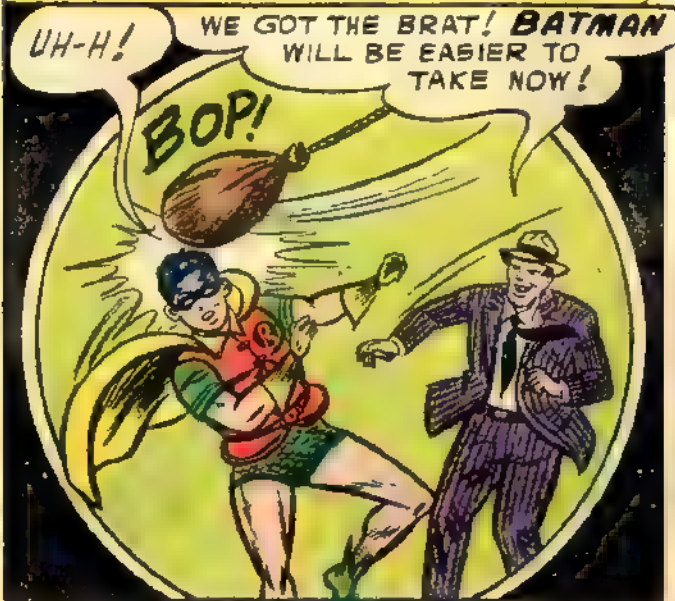
**BUT, IN THE DARKNESS, ROBIN'S FOOT KICKS A MISPLACED GASOLINE CAN...**

**BATMAN AND ROBIN! GET 'EM!**

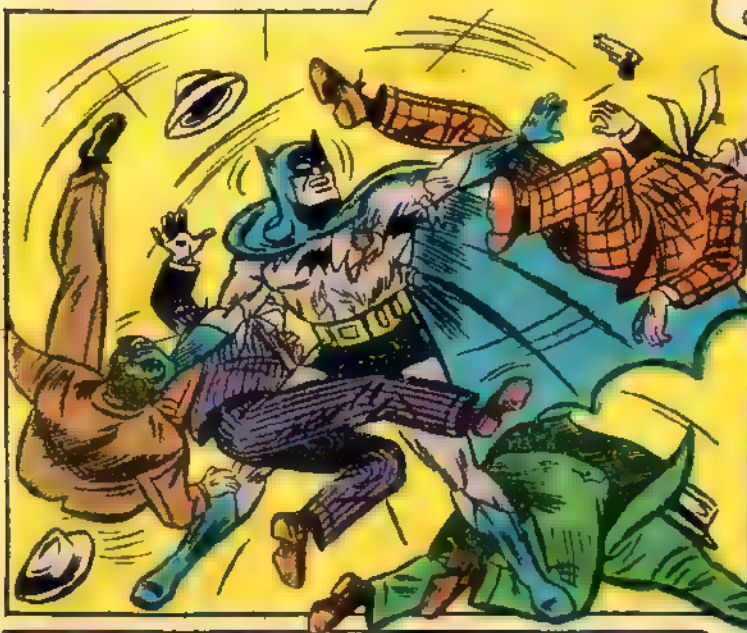


As ROBIN DARTS FORWARD, A SWINGING  
SANDBAG TREACHEROUSLY FELS HIM!

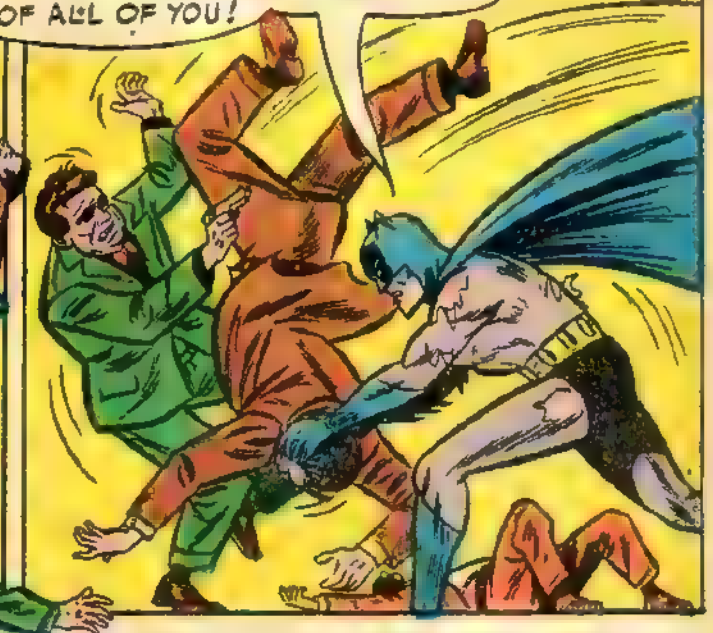
UNDER THE IMPACT OF FOUR THUGS, BATMAN  
IS BROUGHT DOWN...



... BUT NOT FOR LONG!



THIS'LL TAKE THE FIGHT OUT  
OF ALL OF YOU!



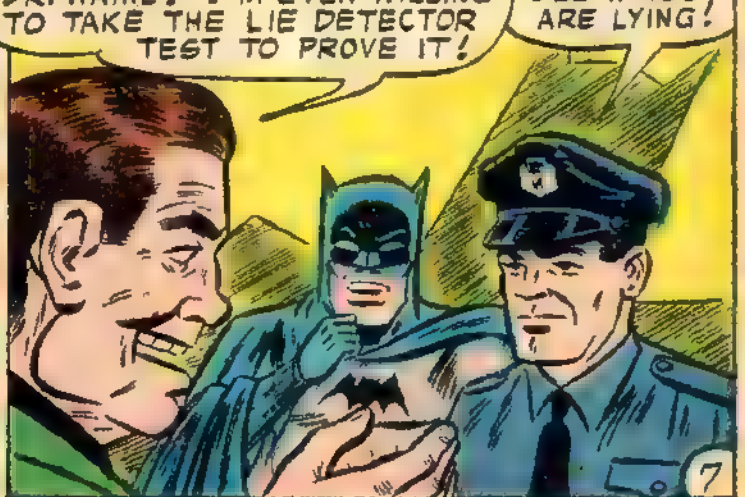
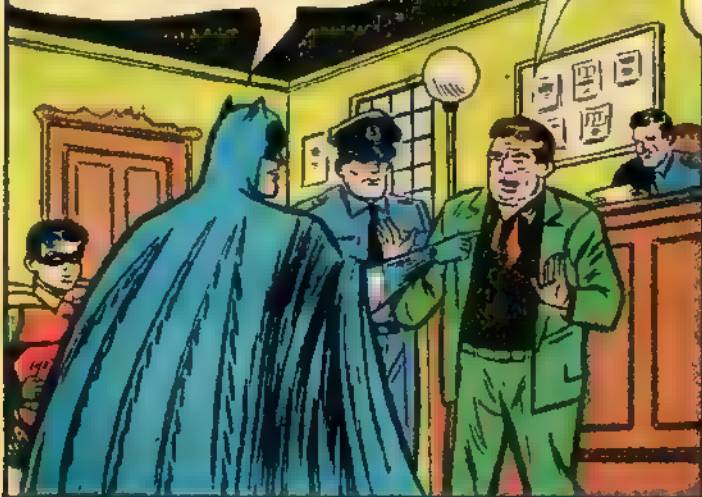
LATER... LEW MOXON,  
I'M CHARGING  
YOU WITH THE MURDER  
OF DR. THOMAS WAYNE!

IS THAT WHAT  
YOU'RE AFTER  
ME FOR?

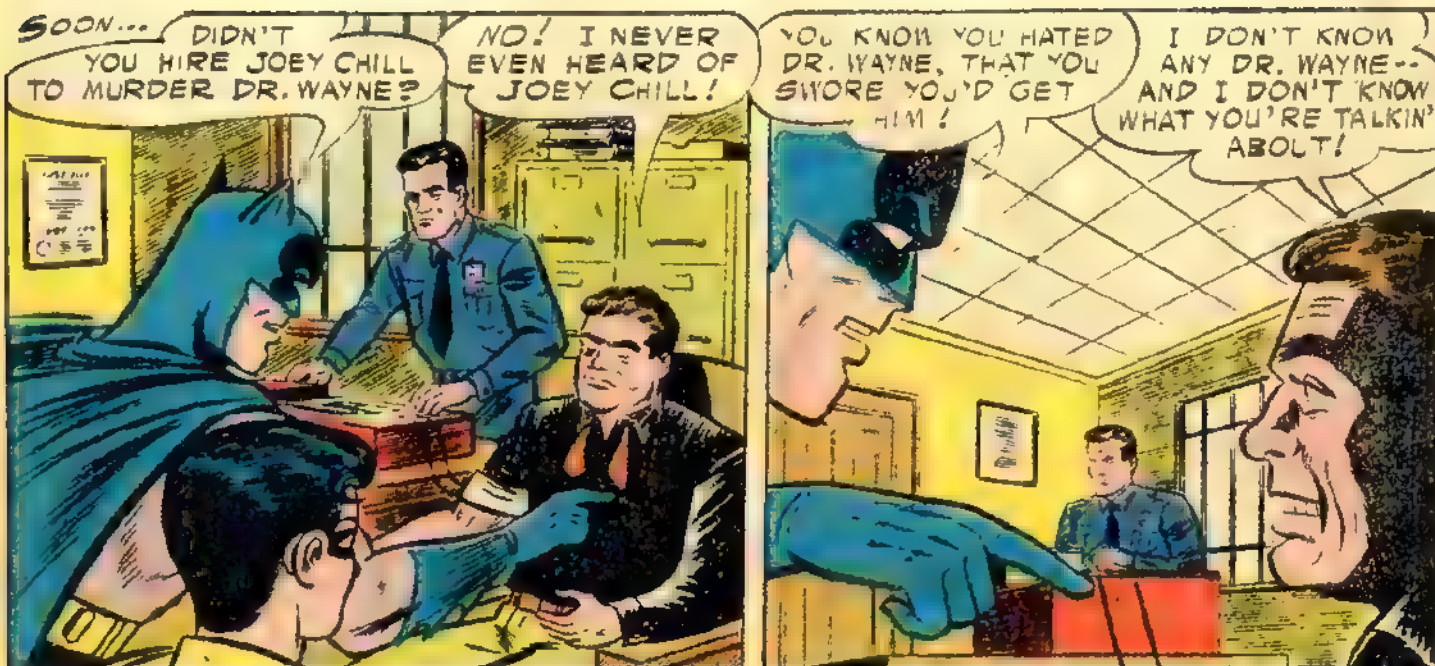
INCREDIBLY, A SMILE OF RELIEF PASSES  
OVER THE ACCUSED'S FACE...

I NEVER HEARD OF ANY  
DR. WAYNE! I'M EVEN WILLING  
TO TAKE THE LIE DETECTOR  
TEST TO PROVE IT!

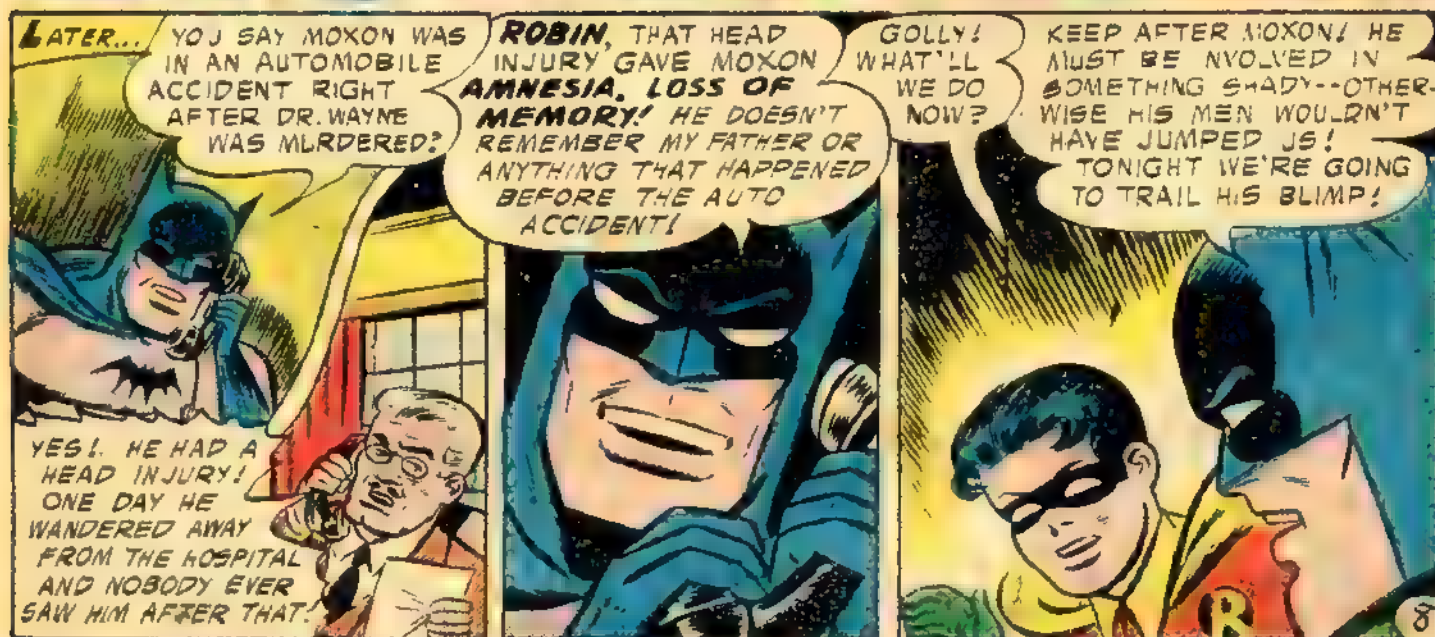
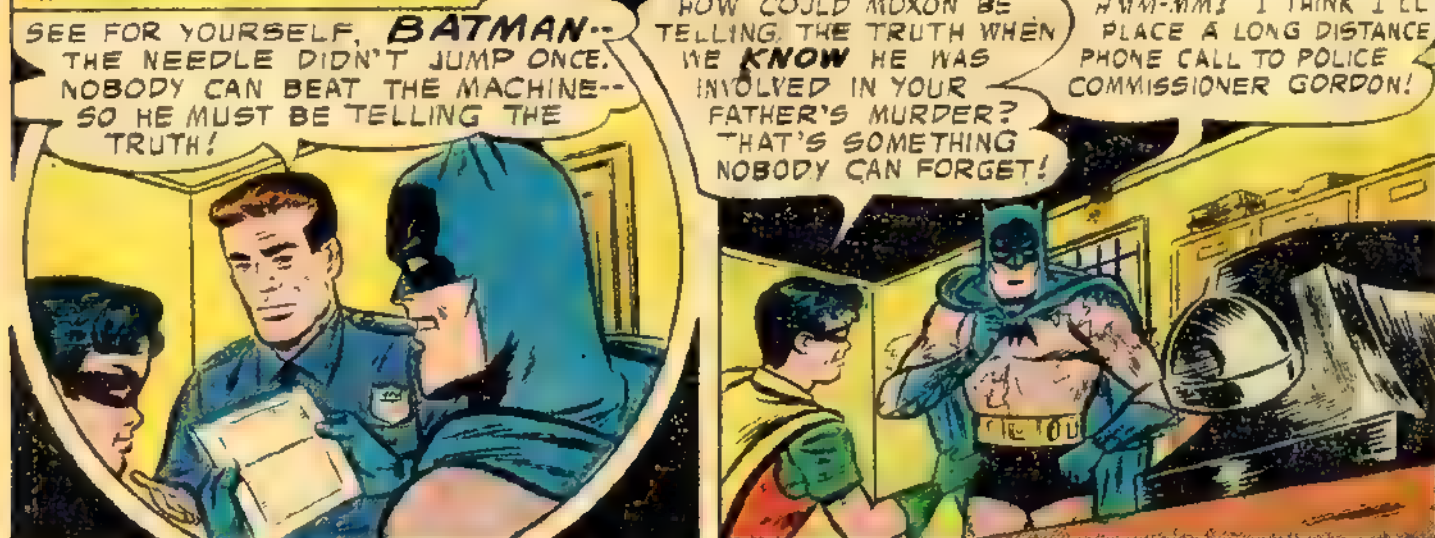
ALL RIGHT,  
WE'LL SOON  
SEE IF YOU  
ARE LYING!







**BATMAN CONTINUES TO HAMMER QUESTIONS! HELPLESSLY, BATMAN SEES MOXON RELEASED AT THE PRISONER, AND WHEN THE INTERROGATION IS OVER... ON SAIL FOR ASSAULT AND BATTERY... FORGET?**







# DETECTIVE COMICS



THAT NIGHT, A FLOATING BILLBOARD FLASHES ITS SKY-HIGH ELECTRIC SIGN...

NOTHING SUSPICIOUS HAPPENING SO FAR, **BATMAN!**

SUDDENLY, THE ELECTRIC LIGHTS WINK OUT, LEAVING THE DARK BLIMP ALMOST UNSEEN AGAINST THE NIGHT SKY...

LOOK! A MAN IS BEING LOWERED TO THAT PENTHOUSE! SO THAT'S MOXON'S ANGLE-- USING HIS BLIMP TO PULL SKY-HIGH BURGLARY JOBS!

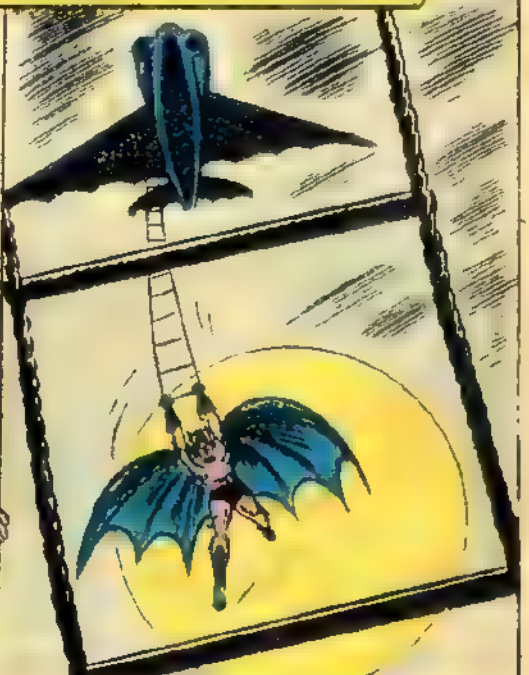
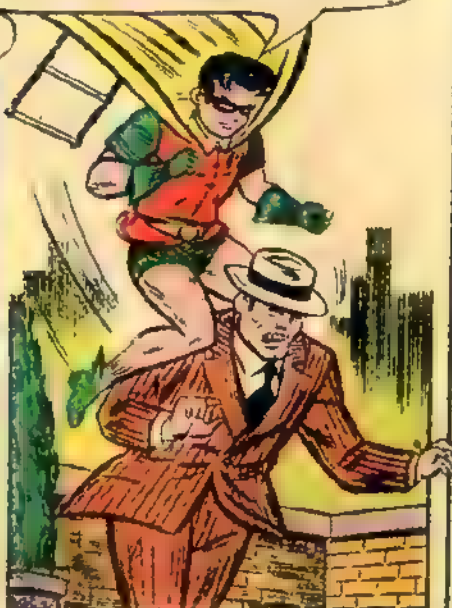
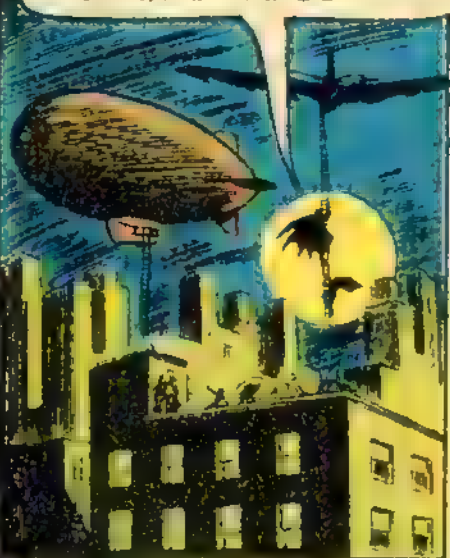
AFTER SETTING THE VERSATILE **BATPLANE** ON ROBOT STABILIZER CONTROLS...

**LIKE A HAWK, ROBIN** PLUMMETS DOWN ON HIS QUARRY!

MEANWHILE, THE ACROBATMAN TRAPEZES THROUGH SPACE...

**ROBIN,** YOU GO AFTER THE MAN ON THE ROOF-- I'LL TAKE THE GONDOLA!

LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT THE **DROP** ON YOU!



...AND SWIFTLY SCALING THE BLIMP'S ROPE LADDER, BURSTS INTO ITS GONDOLA!

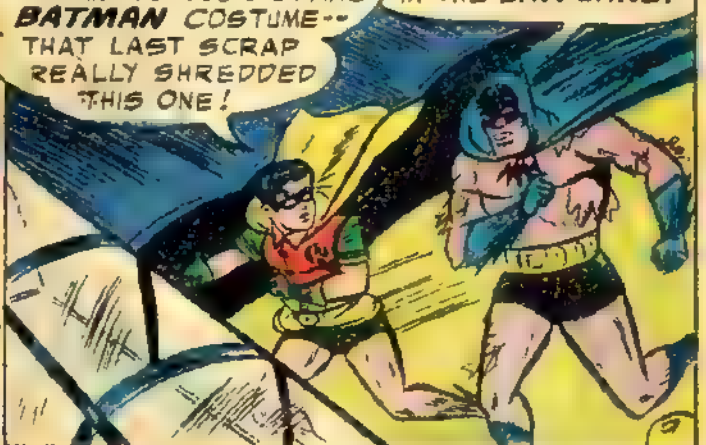
LATER, AFTER THE PRISONERS ARE JAILED...

**BATMAN!**

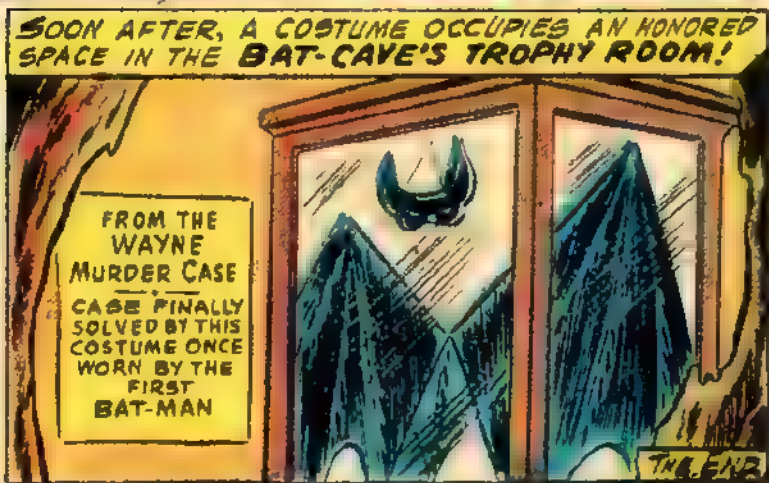
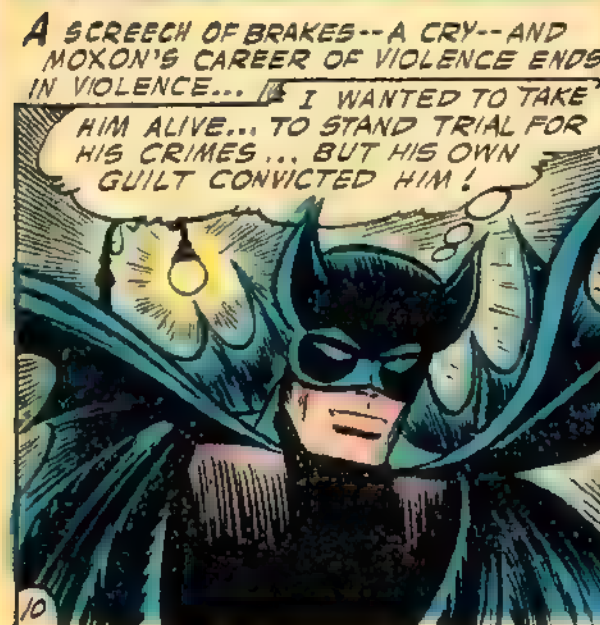
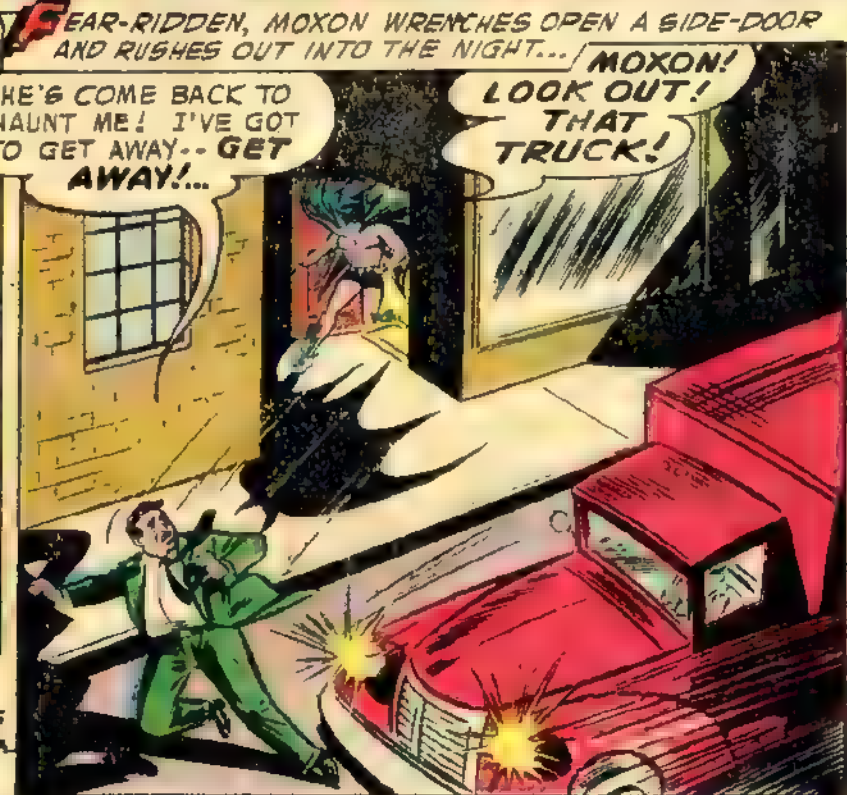
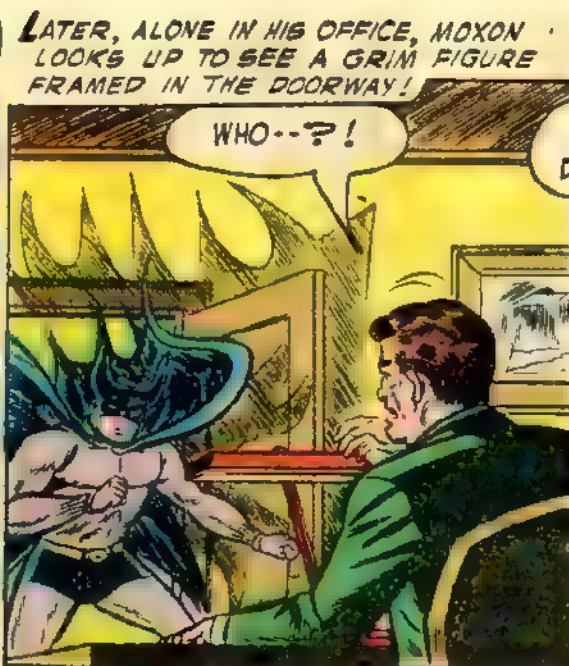
THIS BLIMP'S NEXT STOP WILL BE POLICE HEADQUARTERS!

NOW LET'S PICK UP MOXON! BUT FIRST YOU'D BETTER CHANGE TO YOUR SPARE **BATMAN** COSTUME-- THAT LAST SCRAP REALLY SHREDDED THIS ONE!

OH, OH! I FORGOT TO PACK A SPARE IN THE **BATPLANE!**











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# WORLD'S FINEST

COMICS

AUG.

NO. 89

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE



AUTHORITY

Featuring  
SUPERMAN  
AND  
BATMAN

In one adventure *Together*—  
"The CLUB of HEROES!"

SOMEHOW, OUR NEW  
HERO, *LIGHTNING MAN*,  
MUST BE CAUSING A  
MYSTERIOUS EFFECT ON  
*SUPERMAN*! WE'VE GOT  
TO STOP HIM!





YOUR TWO FAVORITE HEROES

**SUPERMAN**

and

**BATMAN**  
AND  
**ROBIN**

IN ONE  
ADVENTURE  
*Together!*

**W**HEN THE MOST FAMOUS HEROES  
IN THE WORLD ARE GATHERED  
TOGETHER, WHO AMONG THEM WILL  
BE CHOSEN AS THE GREATEST?  
WILL IT BE **SUPERMAN**, THE MIGHTY  
**MAN OF STEEL**? OR **BATMAN**,  
THE 'GALLANT, CAPED  
CRIME-BUSTER'? AMAZINGLY  
ENOUGH, IT'S NEITHER-- FOR  
THEY ARE ECLIPSED BY A FABULOUS  
**NEWCOMER** WHO CAN MATCH ALL  
THEIR FEATS AND POWERS! AND THE  
TWO LAWMEN MUST STRUGGLE TO  
SOLVE A PERILOUS MYSTERY WHICH  
CENTERS AROUND THAT  
MYSTERIOUS  
NEWCOMER  
WHO  
LEADS...

**"THE  
CLUB  
OF  
HEROES"**

DAILY PLANET  
**NEW HERO, LIGHTNING-MAN,  
PREVENTS  
DISASTER**

I GUESS YOL AND  
I HAVE TO TAKE  
SECOND PLACE  
TO THIS NEW  
**LIGHTNING-MAN**  
FROM NOW ON!

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# WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

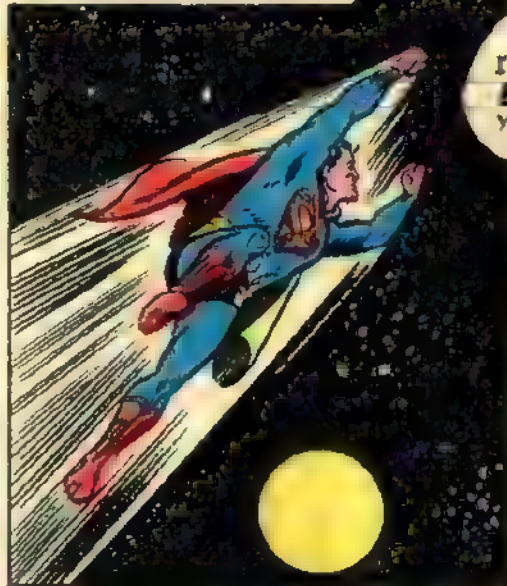


ONE NIGHT, IN METROPOLIS,  
A NEWS-SIGN BLAZES  
AN URGENT MESSAGE...

SOMETHING BIG  
MUST BE UP... I'D  
BETTER CHANGE  
COSTUME FAST!



AND MILD-MANNERED REPORTER  
CLARK KENT SWIFTLY BECOMES  
MIGHTY **SUPERMAN**, TO ANSWER  
A FATEFUL SUMMONS...



MEANWHILE, A SYMBOL IN THE  
GOTHAM CITY SKIES SUMMONS  
**BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** TO POLICE  
HEADQUARTERS...

YES, THAT'S WHY  
I FLASHED THE  
**BAT-SIGNAL**...  
YOU'RE NEEDED IN  
METROPOLIS!

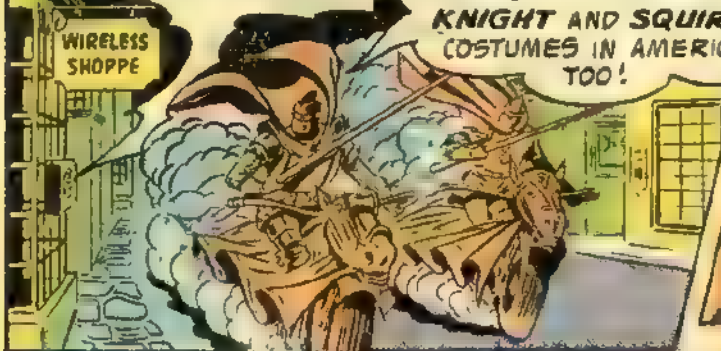
THINGS ARE  
QUIET HERE,  
COMMISSIONER...  
WE'LL HURRY  
UP THERE  
AT ONCE!



AROUND THE WORLD FLASHES THE SAME MYSTERIOUS  
SUMMONS, TO THE TWO GREAT LAWMEN OF ENGLAND...

... AND THE **KNIGHT**  
AND **SQUIRE** ARE  
ASKED TO COME TO  
METROPOLIS!

WE'LL ANSWER THAT  
CALL! BUT NO ONE  
MUST GUESS OUR  
REAL IDENTITIES--  
SO WE'LL WEAR OUR  
**KNIGHT** AND **SQUIRE**  
COSTUMES IN AMERICA,  
TOO!



THE  
**MUSKETEER**, GREAT MASKED LAWMAN OF  
FRANCE, IS SUMMONED ALSO...

WE WILL MISS YOU,  
M'SIEU **MUSKETEER**,  
FOR EVEN THOUGH  
WE KNOW NOT YOUR  
REAL NAME, YOU  
ARE A TERROR  
TO LAWBREAKERS!

I WILL  
RETURN WHEN I FIND  
OUT WHY THEY NEED  
ME IN L'AMERIQUE!



THE **GAUCHO** OF SOUTH AMERICA, TOO...

HERE IS  
THE THIEF  
YOU WANTED!

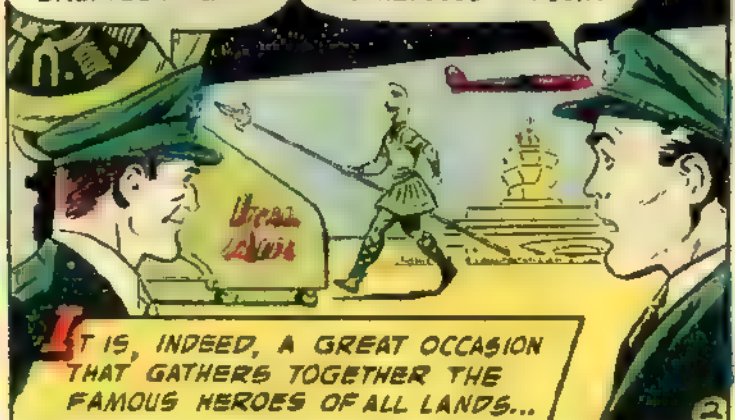
MUCHAS GRACIAS, **GAUCHO**...  
WE KNEW YOU'D RUN HIM DOWN!  
BUT THERE IS A CALL FOR YOU,  
FROM NORTE AMERICA!



AND THAT HERO IN FARAWAY ITALY, WHO CONCEALS  
HIS IDENTITY UNDER ANCIENT ROMAN GUISE...

YES, WE ARE  
HONORED TO CARRY  
TO AMERICA THE  
**LEGIONARY**, OUR  
GREATEST HERO!

BUT WHY HAVE ALL THESE  
GREAT LAWMEN BEEN SUM-  
MONED TO METROPOLIS? IT  
MUST BE FOR SOME  
TREMENDOUS REASON!



IT IS, INDEED, A GREAT OCCASION  
THAT GATHERS TOGETHER THE  
FAMOUS HEROES OF ALL LANDS...



...FOR A METROPOLIS MILLIONAIRE HAS HAD AN INSPIRATION...

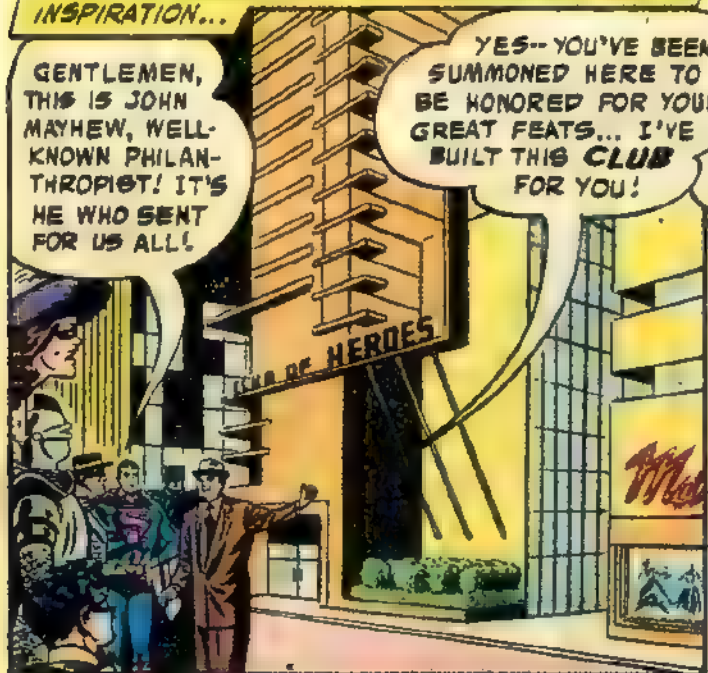
GENTLEMEN, THIS IS JOHN MAYHEW, WELL-KNOWN PHILANTHROPIST! IT'S HE WHO SENT FOR US ALL!

YES-- YOU'VE BEEN SUMMONED HERE TO BE HONORED FOR YOUR GREAT FEATS... I'VE BUILT THIS **CLUB** FOR YOU!

AND INSIDE...

THIS IS THE **CLUB OF HEROES**-- AND ALL OF YOU, BY YOUR GREAT DEEDS, BELONG TO IT! I'LL DEED IT TO WHOMEVER YOU SELECT AS CHAIRMAN!

WHAT A GIFT! THIS LAND AND BUILDING ARE WORTH A FORTUNE!



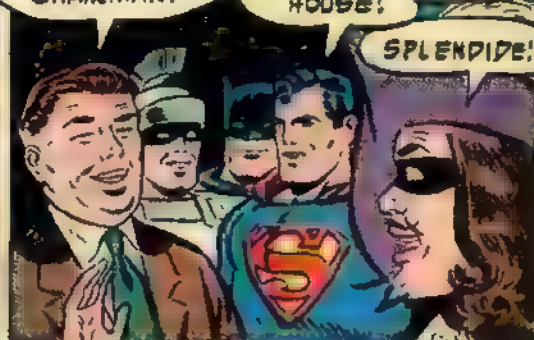
**SUPERMAN** IS THE LOGICAL CHOICE FOR CHAIRMAN OF THIS CLUB, SO MAKE THE DEED OUT TO HIM, MR. MAYHEW!

OH, NO-- **BATMAN** HAS DONE TREMENDOUS FEATS, AND SO HAVE ALL THESE OTHERS! ONE OF **THEM** DESERVES THE HONOR!

WELL--THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SETTLE THE MATTER... WHOEVER PERFORMS THE GREATEST FEATS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL BE YOUR CHAIRMAN!

FINE! THE VISITORS CAN STAY RIGHT HERE IN THE CLUB-HOUSE!

SPLENDIDE!



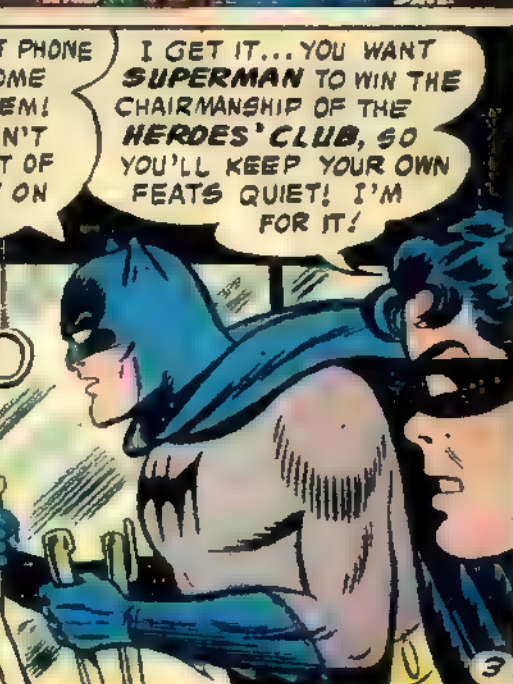
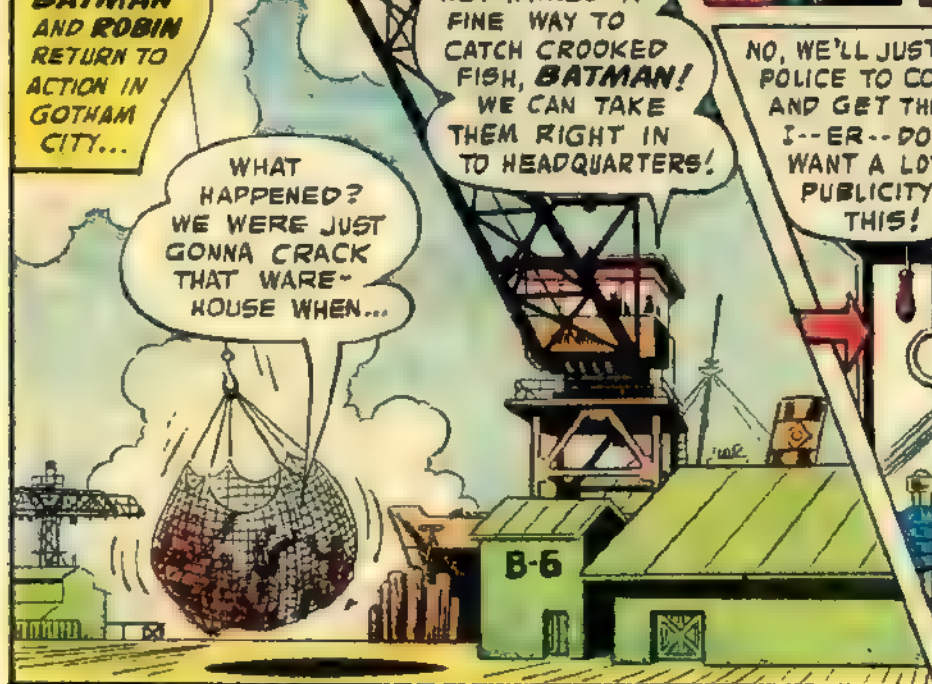
SO NEXT DAY, AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** RETURN TO ACTION IN GOTHAM CITY...

WHAT HAPPENED? WE WERE JUST GONNA CRACK THAT WAREHOUSE WHEN...

THIS CARGO-NET MAKES A FINE WAY TO CATCH CROOKED FISH, **BATMAN**! WE CAN TAKE THEM RIGHT IN TO HEADQUARTERS!

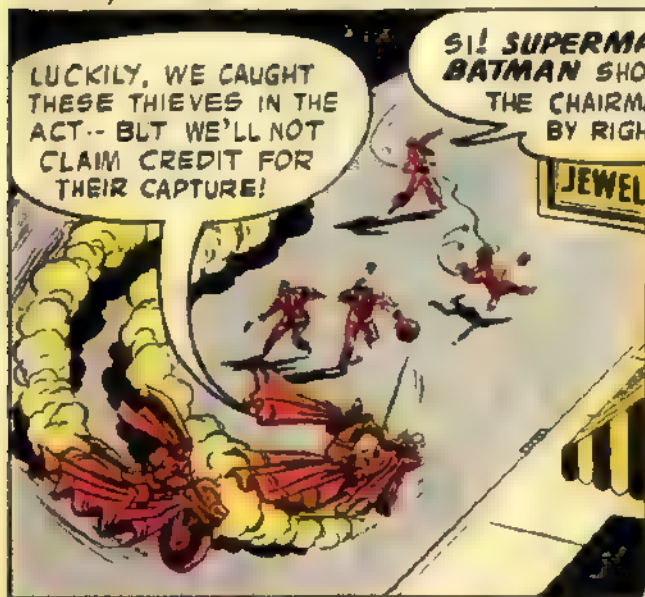
NO, WE'LL JUST PHONE POLICE TO COME AND GET THEM! I--ER--DON'T WANT A LOT OF PUBLICITY ON THIS!

I GET IT... YOU WANT **SUPERMAN** TO WIN THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE **HEROES' CLUB**, SO YOU'LL KEEP YOUR OWN FEATS QUIET! I'M FOR IT!





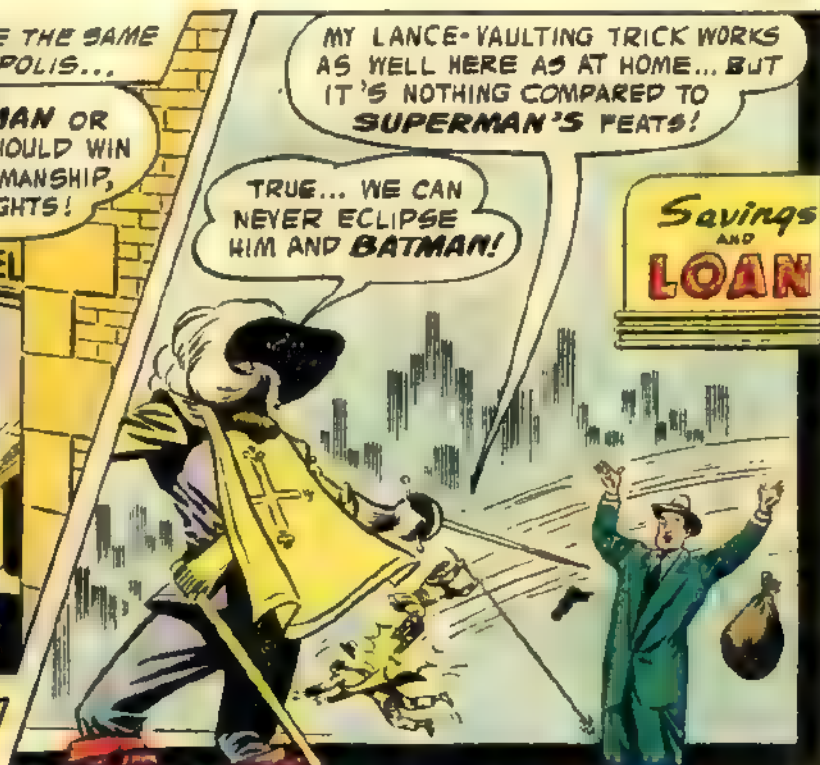
BUT OTHERS OF THE HERO-LAWMEN HAVE THE SAME IDEA, AS THEY GO INTO ACTION IN METROPOLIS...



LUCKILY, WE CAUGHT THESE THIEVES IN THE ACT-- BUT WE'LL NOT CLAIM CREDIT FOR THEIR CAPTURE!

SI! SUPERMAN OR BATMAN SHOULD WIN THE CHAIRMANSHIP, BY RIGHTS!

JEWEL

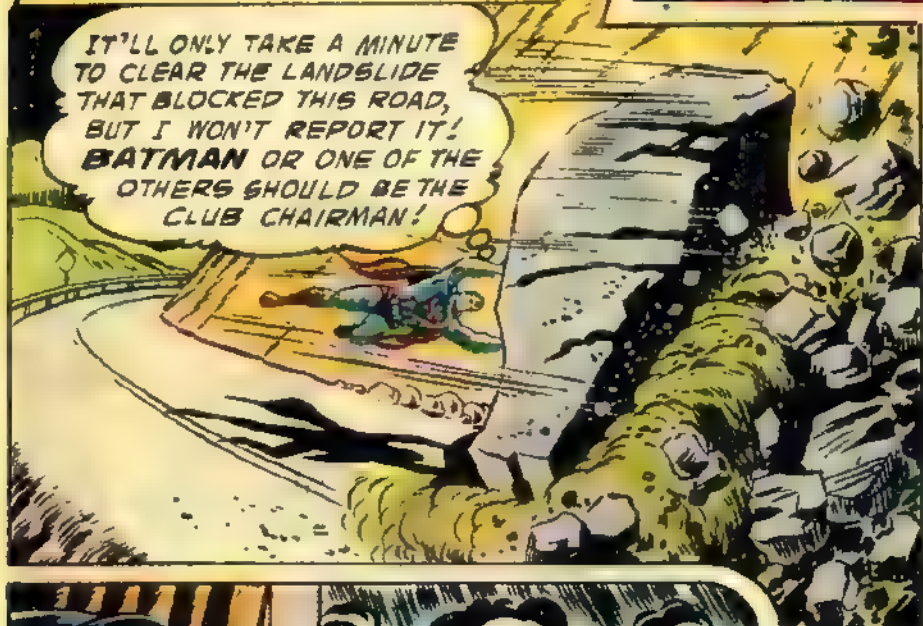


MY LANCE-VAULTING TRICK WORKS AS WELL HERE AS AT HOME... BUT IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO SUPERMAN'S FEATS!

TRUE... WE CAN NEVER ECLIPSE HIM AND BATMAN!

Savings  
AND  
LOAN

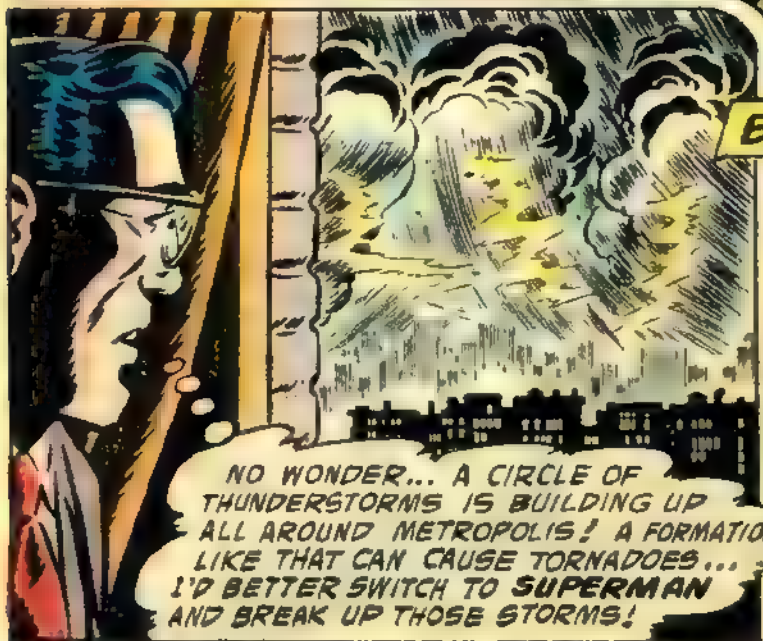
AS FOR SUPERMAN HIMSELF, ON A HILL ROAD OUTSIDE THE CITY...



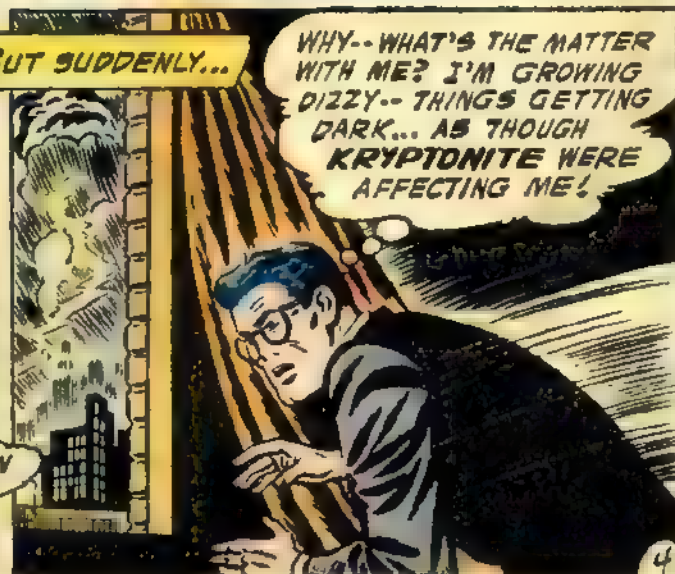
IT'LL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE TO CLEAR THE LANDSLIDE THAT BLOCKED THIS ROAD, BUT I WON'T REPORT IT! BATMAN OR ONE OF THE OTHERS SHOULD BE THE CLUB CHAIRMAN!



LATER, AFTER THE MAN OF STEEL HAS CHANGED TO CLARK KENT... NOW TO KEEP A DATE WITH LOIS, AND... GOOD GRIEF-- I'VE NEVER HEARD SUCH LOUD THUNDER!



NO WONDER... A CIRCLE OF THUNDERSTORMS IS BUILDING UP ALL AROUND METROPOLIS! A FORMATION LIKE THAT CAN CAUSE TORNADOES... I'D BETTER SWITCH TO SUPERMAN AND BREAK UP THOSE STORMS!



BUT SUDDENLY...

WHY--WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME? I'M GROWING DIZZY-- THINGS GETTING DARK... AS THOUGH KRYPTONITE WERE AFFECTING ME!



BUT KRYPTONITE, THE ONE COSMIC SUBSTANCE THAT CAN WEAKEN **SUPERMAN**, IS NOWHERE IN SIGHT...

AND SECONDS LATER, THE MAN WHO IS MIGHTY **SUPERMAN**...

M-MY X-RAY, TELESCOPIC VISION... SCANNING THE ENTIRE CITY... CAN'T SPOT IT--ANYWHERE! YET--I'M PASSING OUT...



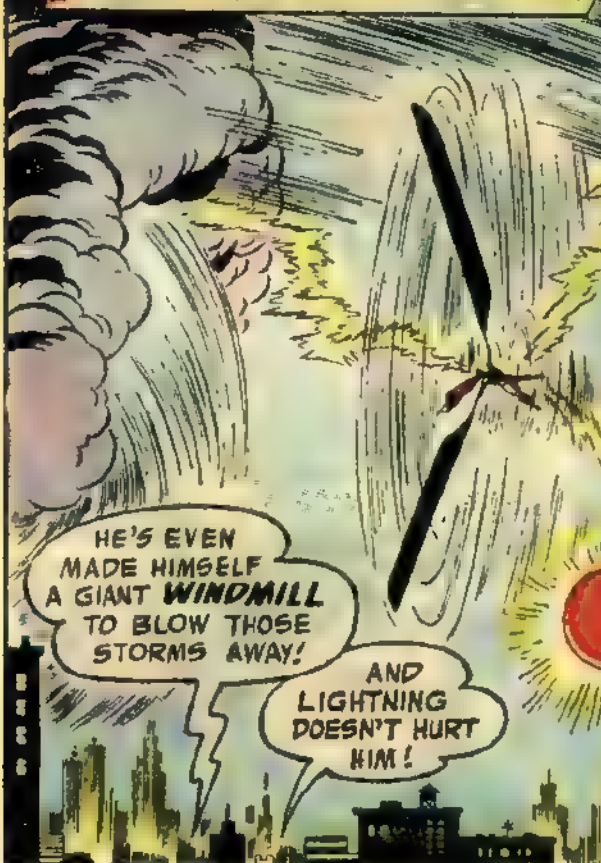
IN THE MEANTIME, WHERE LOIS LANE AWAITS CLARK...

THAT'S A POSSIBLE TORNADO STORM-PATTERN! WHY DOESN'T **SUPERMAN** BREAK IT UP?

DON'T WORRY--HE WILL!



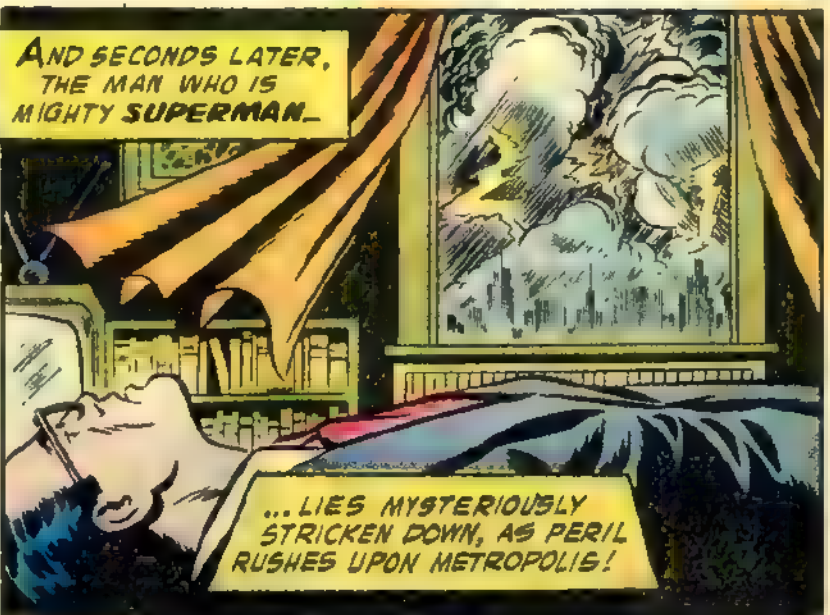
WHO INDEED, IF NOT **SUPERMAN**?



HE'S EVEN MADE HIMSELF A GIANT WINDMILL TO BLOW THOSE STORMS AWAY!

AND LIGHTNING DOESN'T HURT HIM!

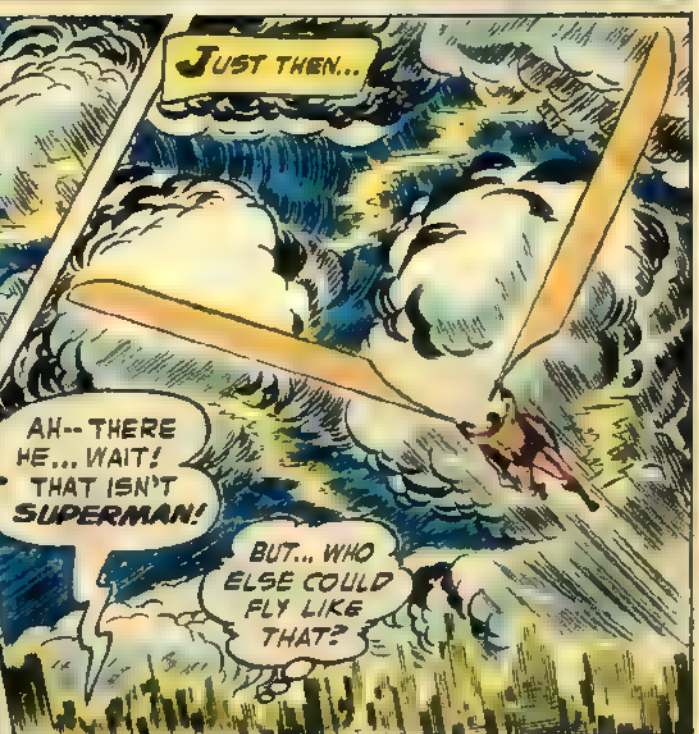
...LIES MYSTERIOUSLY STRICKEN DOWN, AS PERIL RUSHES UPON METROPOLIS!



JUST THEN...

AH--THERE HE... WAIT! THAT ISN'T **SUPERMAN**!

BUT... WHO ELSE COULD FLY LIKE THAT?



AFTERWARD, WITH THE STORMS DISPELLER...

YOU CAN CALL ME **LIGHTNING-MAN**!

YOU HAVE **SUPER-POWERS**, BUT NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN OR HEARD OF YOU BEFORE! WHO ARE YOU?





AND AS THIS NEW SUPER-HERO STREAKS AWAY...

LIKE SUPERMAN, HE KEEPS HIS IDENTITY SECRET! BUT HE'S SURE TERRIFIC!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS AT ALL! WHERE'S SUPERMAN? WHY DIDN'T HE MEET THAT DANGER, INSTEAD OF THIS NEWCOMER?

TO LEARN THE ANSWER, LOIS WOULD HAVE TO VISIT CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT, WHERE, SHORTLY AFTERWARD...

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ME, IT REALLY KNOCKED ME OUT! I WAS JUST PREPARING TO MEET THAT STORM-DANGER... BETTER CHANGE FAST!

BUT AS CLARK HASTILY SWITCHES FOR ACTION...

...AND THIS NEWS-PHOTO SHOWS HOW THE NEW HERO, LIGHTNING-MAN, DISPERSED THE TORNADO-THREAT BY SUPER-ACTION!

WHAT--? WH-WHO'S LIGHTNING-MAN? HOW DID HE GET SUPER-POWERS? AND WHAT KNOCKED ME OUT LIKE THAT?

IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN KRYPTONITE, BECAUSE I SAW NONE FOR MILES AROUND! WHAT'S MORE, I KEEP CLOSE TRACK OF ALL KRYPTONITE DANGERS, AND THE LAST WAS...

...THAT BIG METEOR, CONTAINING KRYPTONITE, WHICH APPROACHED EARTH DAYS AGO!

CAN'T LET THAT METEOR REACH EARTH, OR CROOKS MIGHT GET THE KRYPTONITE ON IT, AND USE IT AGAINST ME! I'LL KNOCK IT BACK INTO SPACE...

WITHIN SECONDS, I WAS OUT OF DANGER...

THAT MOUNTAIN I THREW HIT IT AND KNOCKED IT BACK! THE METEOR WILL NEVER RETURN TO EARTH!

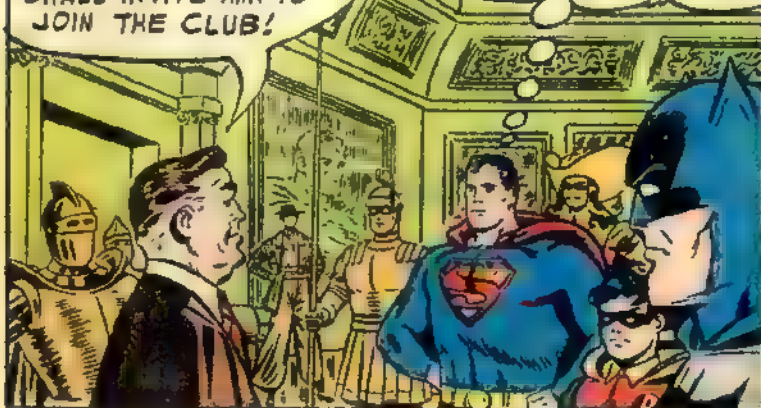
SO NO KRYPTONITE REACHED EARTH--WHICH MEANS SOMETHING ELSE KNOCKED ME OUT, JUST WHEN THIS NEW LIGHTNING-MAN APPEARED TO REPLACE ME! MAYBE HE DID IT TO ME--BUT HOW?... AND WHY?



IT'S A WORRIED MAN OF STEEL WHO ATTENDS THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CLUB OF HEROES...

SO FAR, THIS NEW HERO **LIGHTNING-MAN** HAS TOPPED YOU BY HIS GREAT FEAT, **SUPERMAN**! I SHALL INVITE HIM TO JOIN THE CLUB!

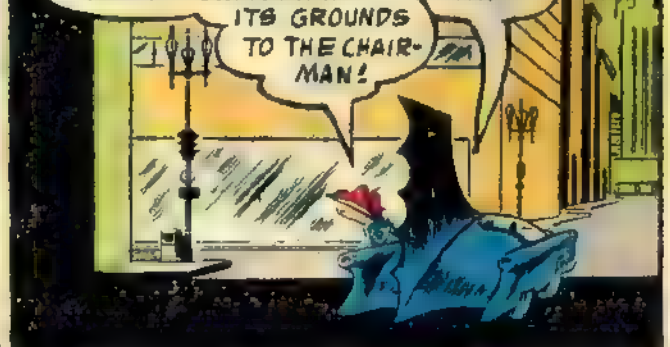
I WONDER-- COULD THAT BE THE ANSWER TO THE MYSTERY? I'LL CONSULT **BATMAN**...



WHEN THE MEETING IS OVER...

...AND THIS **LIGHTNING-MAN** COULD BE **FAKING** SUPER-STUNTS BY SCIENTIFIC MEANS, SO THAT HE CAN WIN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CLUB! REMEMBER, MAYHEW WILL DEED THE CLUBHOUSE AND ITS GROUNDS TO THE CHAIRMAN!

THAT PROPERTY'S WORTH A FORTUNE... IT COULD BE **LIGHTNING-MAN'S** MOTIVE! WE'D BETTER LOOK INTO THIS...



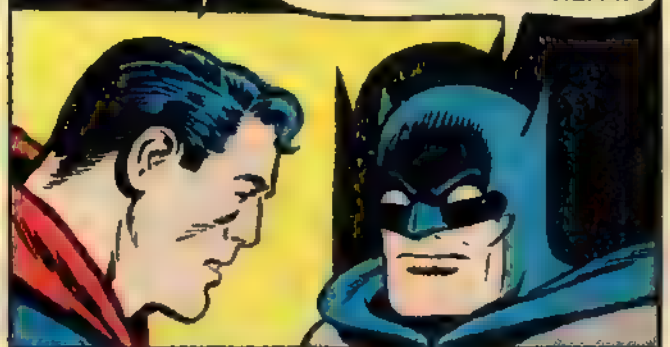
BACK AT CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT, THE GREATEST DETECTIVE DUO IN THE WORLD INVESTIGATES A SUPER-MYSTERY...

SOMETHING HIT ME AND KNOCKED ME OUT--THAT'S ALL I KNOW!

HMM... ONE OF THE DRAPES HERE IS MISSING, AS THOUGH TORN AWAY BY SOME TERRIFIC FORCE!

BUT WHAT FORCE COULD THIS **LIGHTNING-MAN** USE TO OVERPOWER ME?

THAT'S WHAT WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT! YOU'RE SCHEDULED TO COVER THE TEST OF THE NEW ATOM-PLANE TODAY... WE'LL SEE IF THIS THING HAPPENS TO YOU AGAIN!



LATER, AS **BATMAN** UTILIZES HIS SCIENTIFIC SKILL...

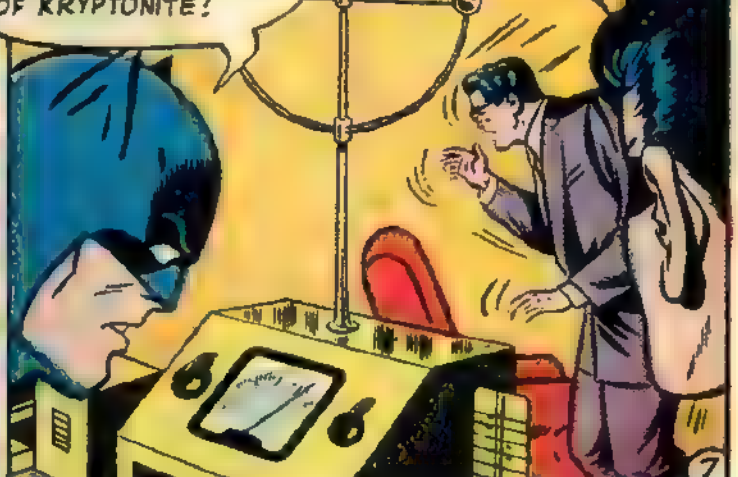
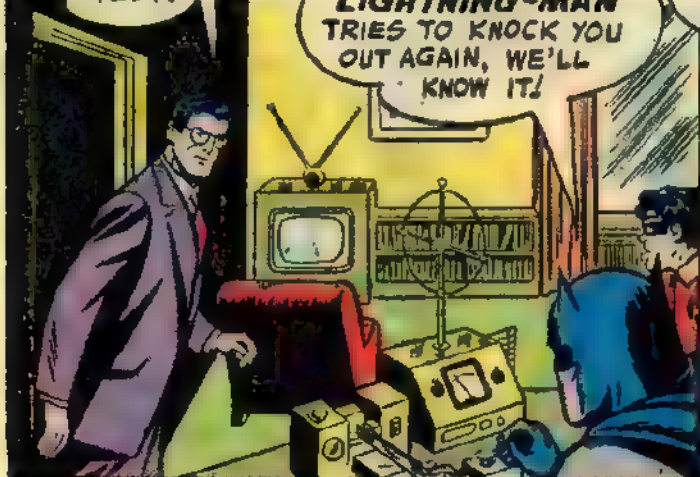
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO SWITCH TO **SUPERMAN** AND GET TO THAT ATOM-PLANE TEST!

GO AHEAD... THESE INSTRUMENTS WILL DETECT ANY UNUSUAL FORCE! IF THIS **LIGHTNING-MAN** TRIES TO KNOCK YOU OUT AGAIN, WE'LL KNOW IT!

BUT, IRONICALLY, AT THAT MOMENT...

WHY-- A FORCE IS HITTING THIS APARTMENT NOW... A RADIATION SIMILAR TO THAT OF KRYPTONITE!

**BATMAN**-- LOOK AT CLARK! HE'S PASSING OUT AGAIN!



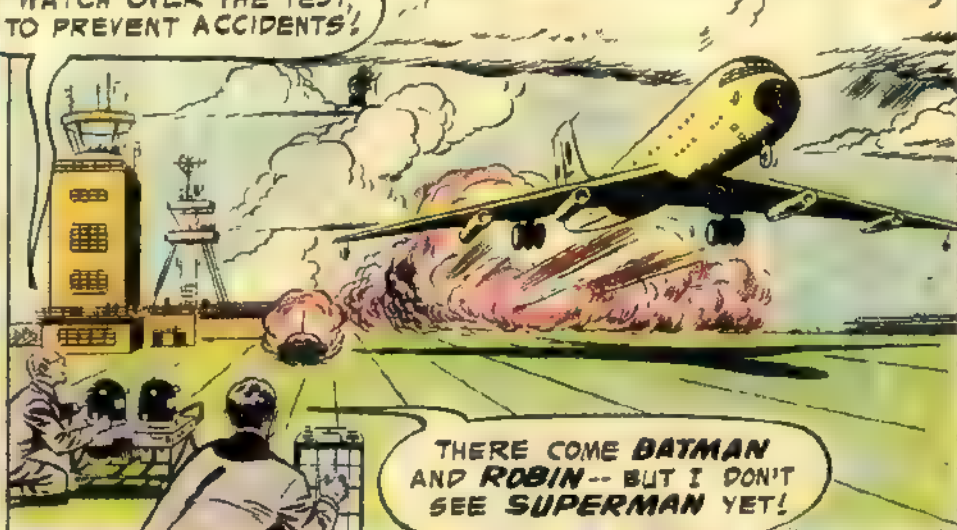
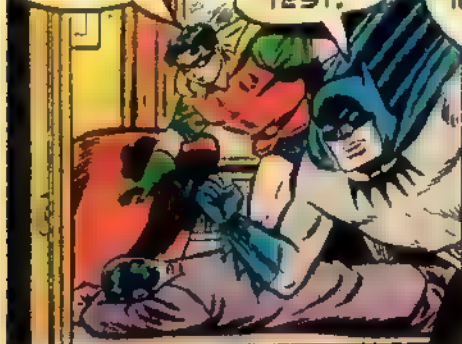


THAT PROVES IT--SOMEONE IS DELIBERATELY KNOCKING HIM OUT WITH THAT RADIATION!

AND THAT SOMEONE COULD BE **LIGHTNING-MAN!** COME ON... WE'LL SEE IF HE SHOWS UP AT THAT PLANE-TEST!

AND AS A BIG, NEW ATOM-POWERED PLANE IS LAUNCHED...

SINCE THE ATOM-PLANE IS REMOTE-CONTROLLED, IT HAS NO CREW IN IT TO RUN RISKS-- AND **SUPERMAN** AGREED TO WATCH OVER THE TEST, TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS!



AT THAT INSTANT...

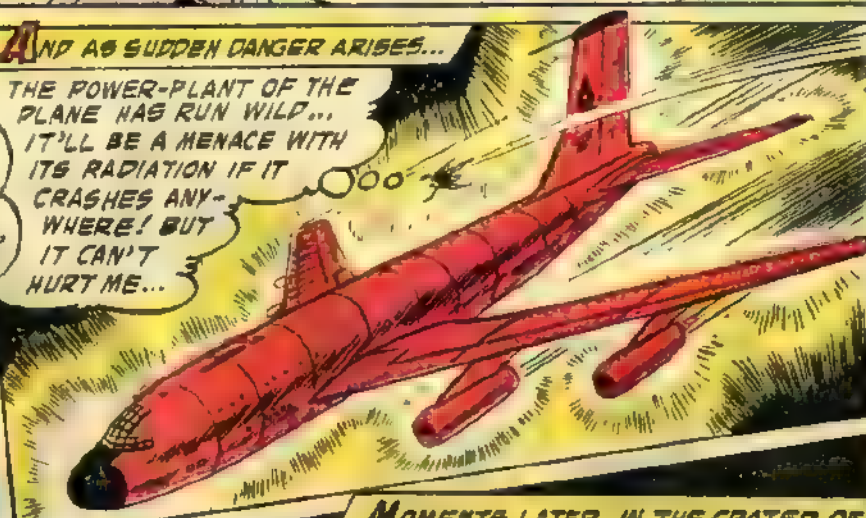
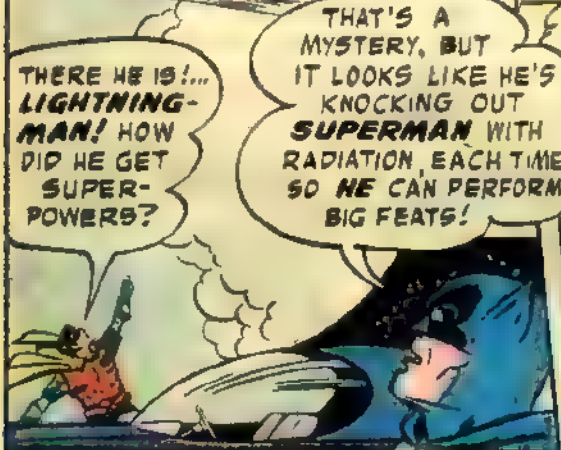


THERE HE IS!... **LIGHTNING-MAN!** HOW DID HE GET SUPER-POWERS?

THAT'S A MYSTERY, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S KNOCKING OUT **SUPERMAN** WITH RADIATION EACH TIME, SO HE CAN PERFORM BIG FEATS!

AND AS SUDDEN DANGER ARISES...

THE POWER-PLANT OF THE PLANE HAS RUN WILD... IT'LL BE A MENACE WITH ITS RADIATION IF IT CRASHES ANYWHERE! BUT IT CAN'T HURT ME...

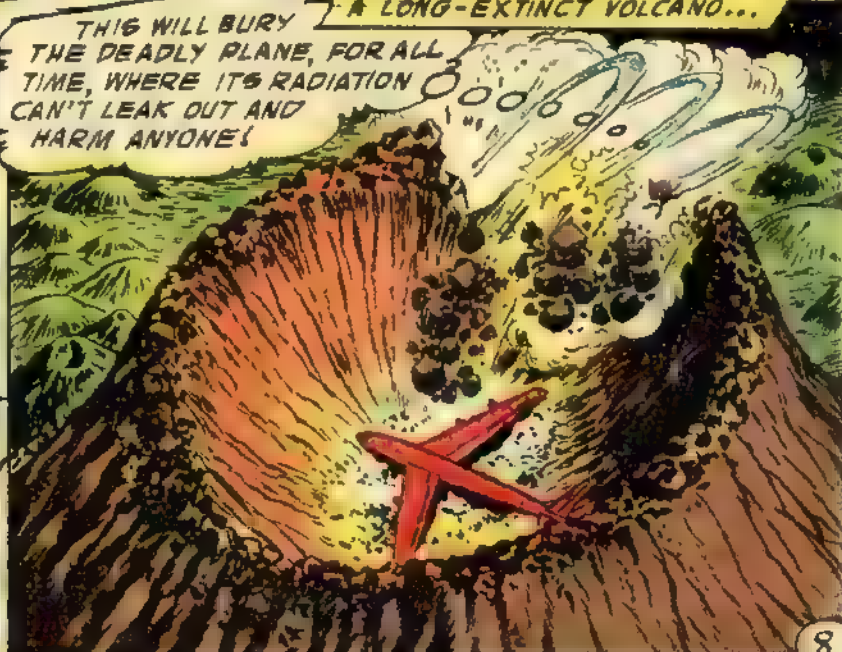


MOMENTS LATER, IN THE CRATER OF A LONG-EXTINCT VOLCANO...

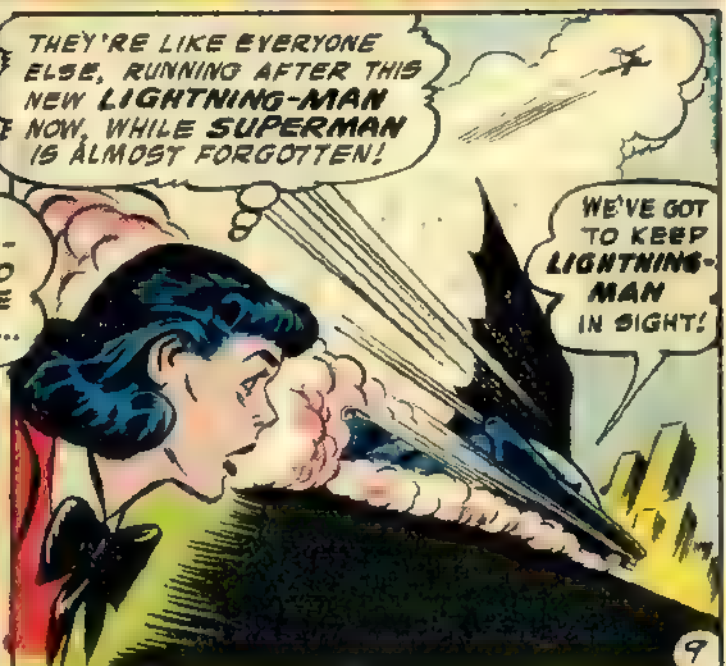
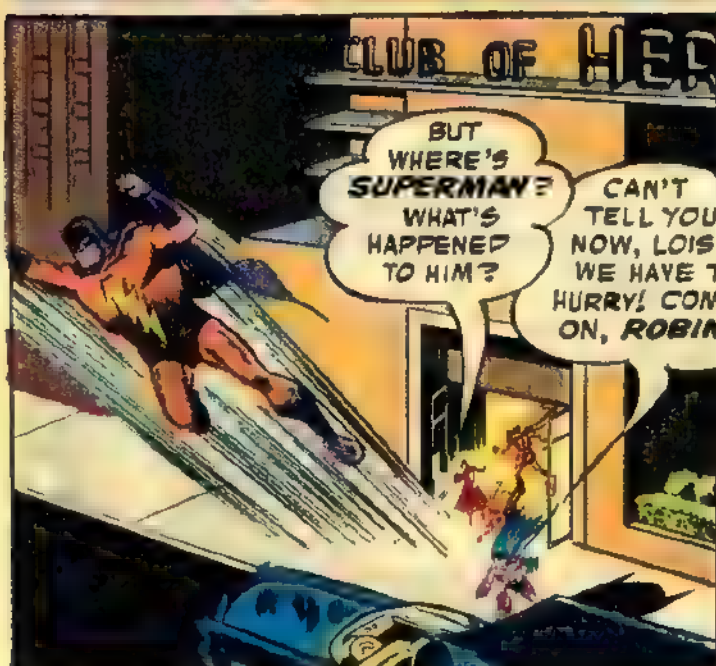
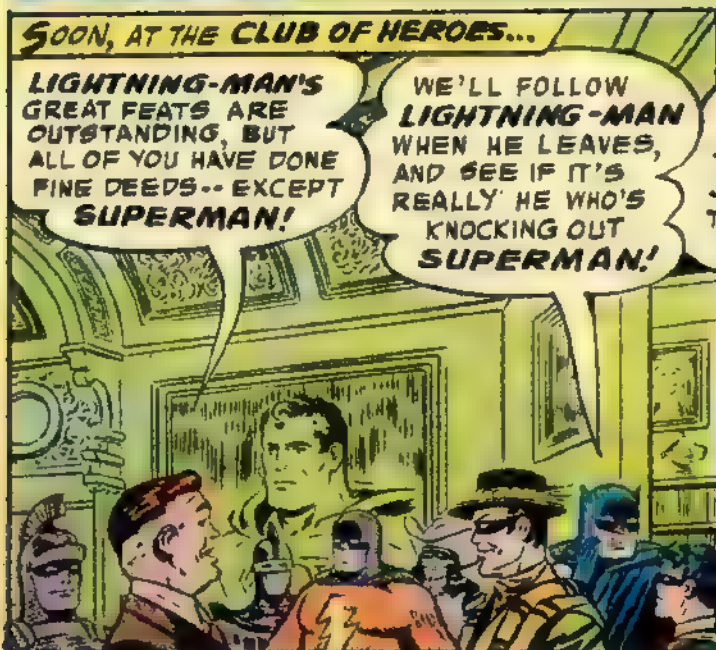
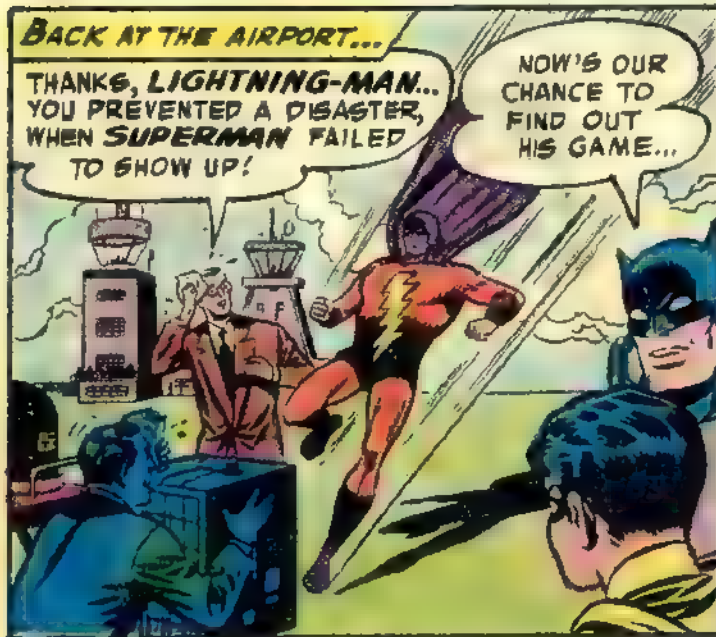
THIS WILL BURY THE DEADLY PLANE, FOR ALL TIME, WHERE ITS RADIATION CAN'T LEAK OUT AND HARM ANYONE!



I'LL MAKE SURE IT'S SAFELY DISPOSED...

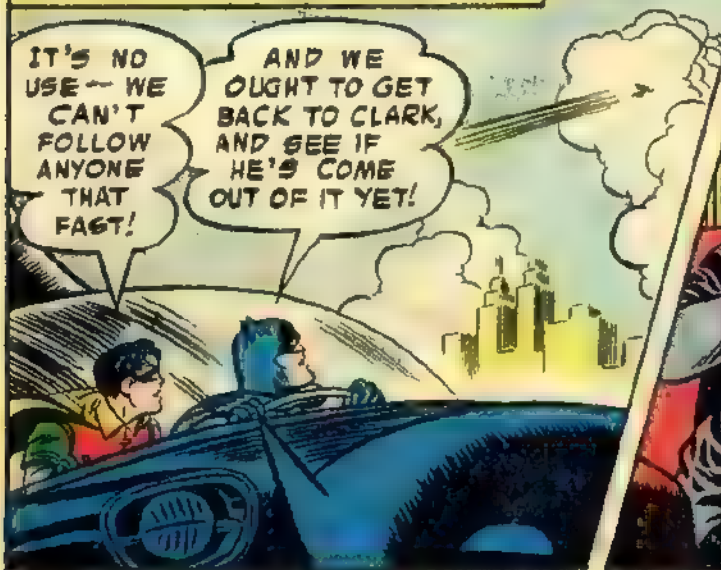








**BUT THE SUPER-SPEED OF THIS NEW HERO IS TOO MUCH FOR THE DYNAMIC DUO...**



IT'S NO USE-- WE CAN'T FOLLOW ANYONE THAT FAST!

AND WE OUGHT TO GET BACK TO CLARK, AND SEE IF HE'S COME OUT OF IT YET!

**LATER, AT CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT...**



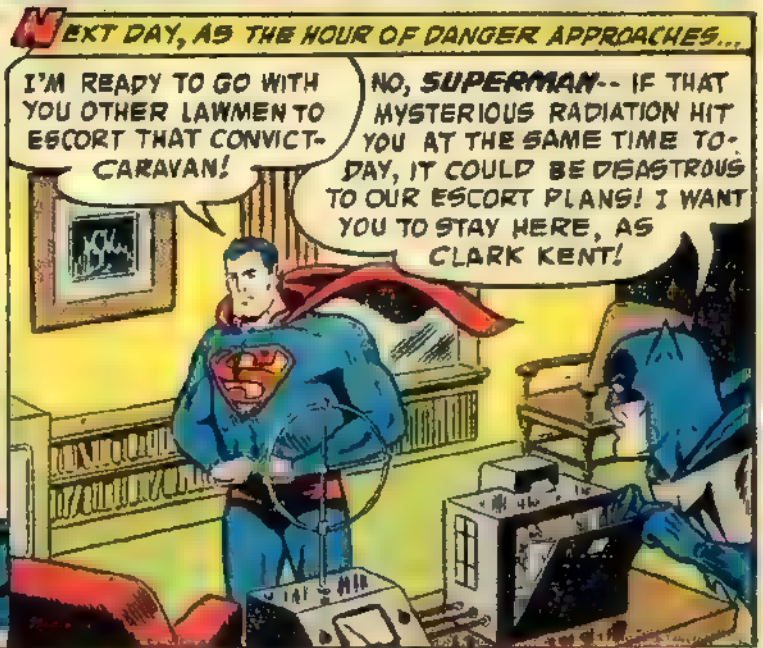
YES, I JUST CAME OUT OF MY DAZE-- IT HAPPENED JUST AS BEFORE!

AND THE MYSTERIOUS RADIATION THAT KNOCKED YOU OUT CAME AT THE SAME TIME AS BEFORE! THAT'S FUNNY!



IT **MUST** BE THIS **LIGHTNING-MAN** WHO'S KNOCKING ME OUT-- BUT HOW DOES HE DO IT?

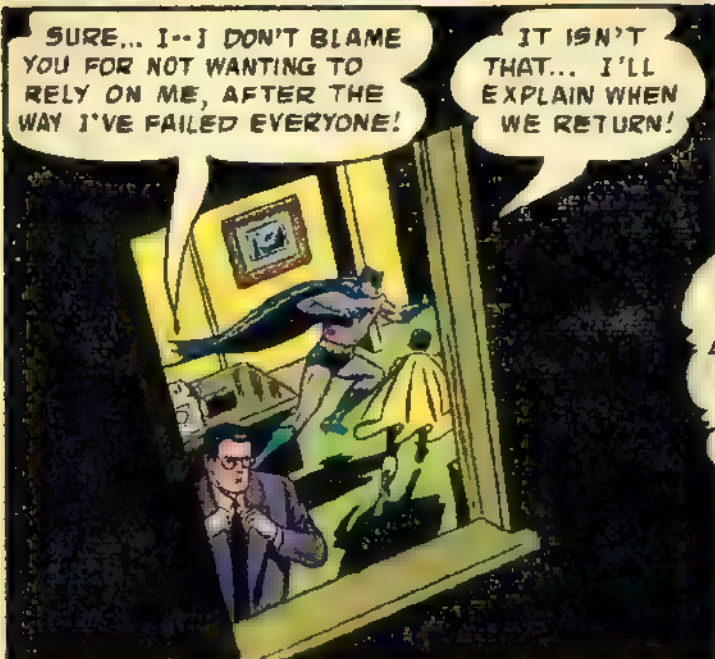
I'VE GOT AN IDEA ABOUT THAT-- SO I'M GOING TO GET UP A DIFFERENT GADGET, WHICH WILL SOLVE THE MYSTERY, IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN TOMORROW!



**NEXT DAY, AS THE HOUR OF DANGER APPROACHES...**

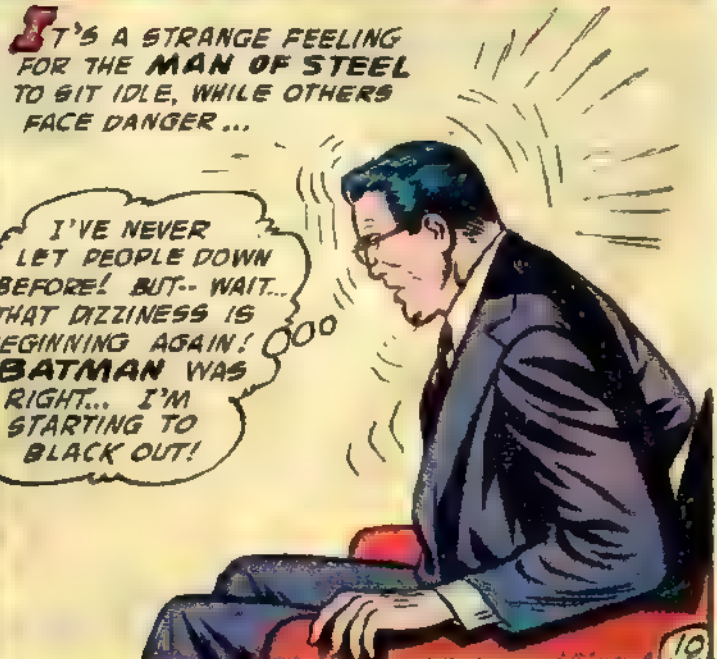
I'M READY TO GO WITH YOU OTHER LAWYERS TO ESCORT THAT CONVICT-CARAVAN!

NO, **SUPERMAN**-- IF THAT MYSTERIOUS RADIATION HIT YOU AT THE SAME TIME TO-DAY, IT COULD BE DISASTROUS TO OUR ESCORT PLANS! I WANT YOU TO STAY HERE, AS CLARK KENT!



SURE... I-- I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR NOT WANTING TO RELY ON ME, AFTER THE WAY I'VE FAILED EVERYONE!

IT ISN'T THAT... I'LL EXPLAIN WHEN WE RETURN!



**IT'S A STRANGE FEELING FOR THE MAN OF STEEL TO SIT IDLE, WHILE OTHERS FACE DANGER...**

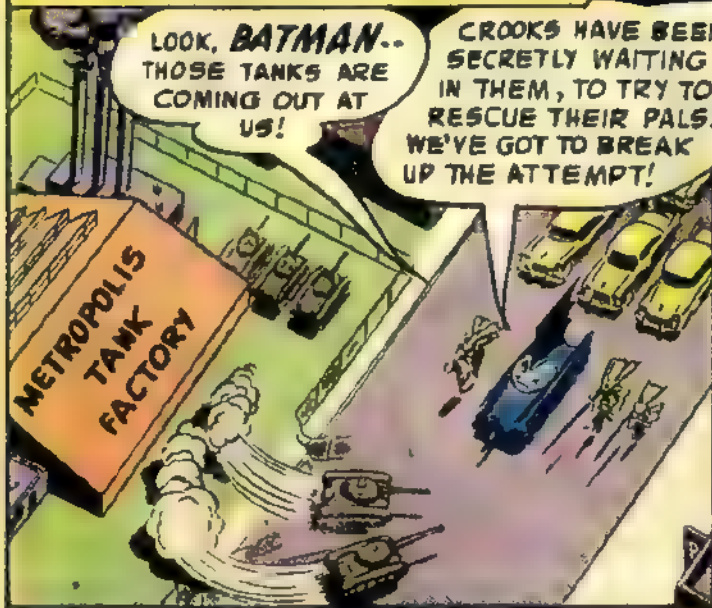
I'VE NEVER LET PEOPLE DOWN BEFORE! BUT-- WAIT... THAT DIZZINESS IS BEGINNING AGAIN! **BATMAN** WAS RIGHT... I'M STARTING TO BLACK OUT!



MEANWHILE, WHERE FAMOUS LAWYERS ESCORT DANGEROUS CONVICTS TO A NEW PRISON...

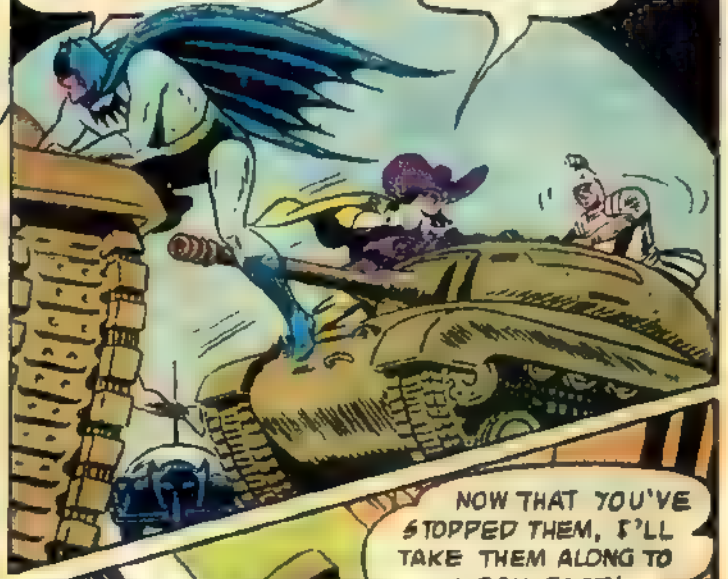
LOOK, BATMAN-- THOSE TANKS ARE COMING OUT AT US!

CROOKS HAVE BEEN SECRETLY WAITING IN THEM, TO TRY TO RESCUE THEIR PALS! WE'VE GOT TO BREAK UP THE ATTEMPT!



MUFFLE THEIR EYE-SLIT LOOPHOLES SO THEY CAN'T SEE OUT!

OH! THEN THEY WILL HAVE TO EMERGE IN THE OPEN!



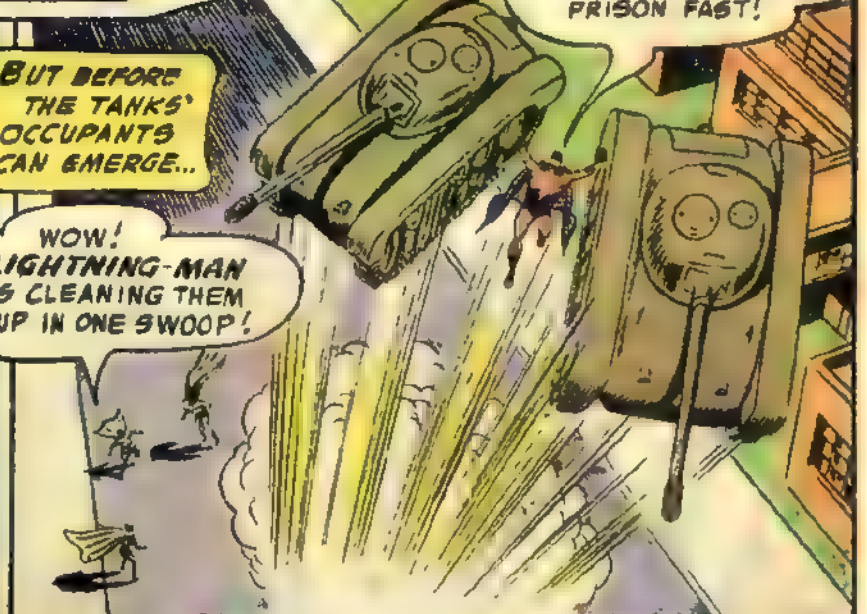
NOW THAT YOU'VE STOPPED THEM, I'LL TAKE THEM ALONG TO PRISON FAST!

THESE STRIPS, TORN FROM OUR CAPES, WILL BLIND THE TANKS!

BUT THEY'LL COME OUT SHOOTING NOW... BE READY!

BUT BEFORE THE TANKS' OCCUPANTS CAN EMERGE...

WOW! LIGHTNING-MAN IS CLEANING THEM UP IN ONE SWOOP!



LATER, AS CLARK KENT HAS ANOTHER STRANGE AWAKENING...

IT HAPPENED AGAIN! WHO'S DOING THIS TO ME, BATMAN?

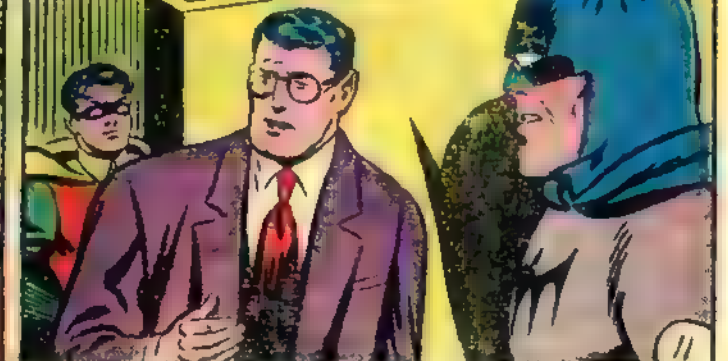
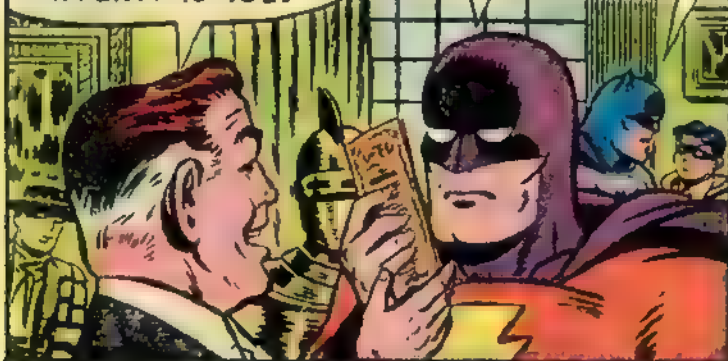
NO ONE IS DOING IT! I WANT YOU, AS SUPERMAN, TO SEARCH THE SKY BEYOND METROPOLIS!

AND VERY SOON, BACK AT THE CLUB OF HEROES...

LIGHTNING-MAN, YOUR FEATS HAVE WON YOU THE CHAIRMANSHIP-- SO I'VE DEEDED THE CLUBHOUSE PROPERTY TO YOU!

THANKS... I MUST LEAVE NOW!

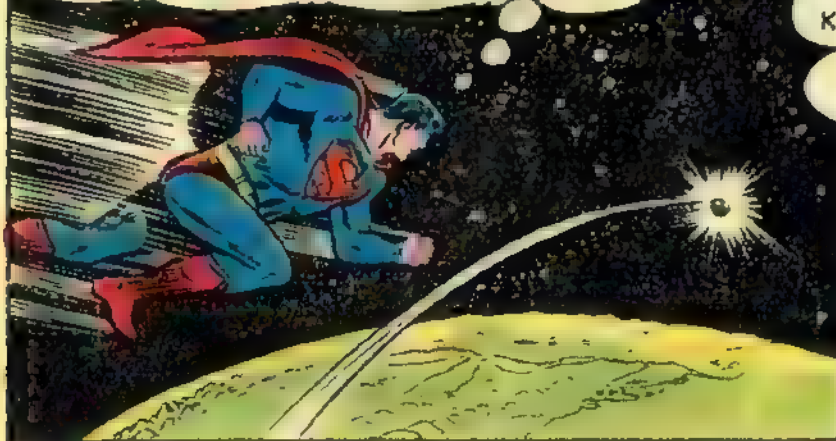
NO USE FOLLOWING HIM-- WE'LL GO BACK TO SUPERMAN!





AS THE MAN OF STEEL SWIFTLY COMBS THE SKY...

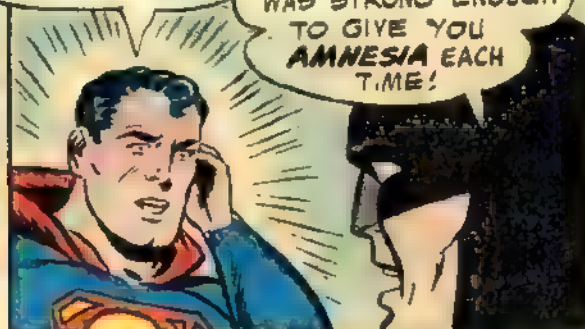
WHY, THAT'S A CHIPPED-OFF FRAGMENT OF THE KRYPTONITE-ASTEROID I KNOCKED AWAY DAYS AGO! IT'S BEEN CIRCLING EARTH EVER SINCE!



AFTER BLOWING THE KRYPTONITE INTO OUTER SPACE WITH SUPER-BREATH, SUPERMAN RETURNS TO HEAR A STARTLING EXPLANATION...

THEN EVERY TIME THAT LITTLE KRYPTONITE-SATELITE WENT OVER METROPOLIS, IT AFFECTED ME?

YES... AND IT WAS THE REGULARITY OF THE TIME THAT MADE ME SUSPECT THAT! IT DIDN'T PARALYZE YOU, BUT WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU AMNESIA EACH TIME!



"YET, YOUR STRONG INSTINCTS TO PREVENT DISASTER, AND TO KEEP YOUR IDENTITY SECRET, STILL MOVED YOU TO ACTION..."

HAVE TO BREAK UP THOSE TORNADO-STORMS, BUT MUSN'T LET ANYONE KNOW WHO I AM! THIS CLOTH WILL MAKE A COSTUME AND MASK FOR ME!

"AND SO, UNAWARE WHO YOU REALLY WERE, YOU YOURSELF BECAME LIGHTNING-MAN..."

JOB'S FINISHED... GOT TO HIDE THIS COSTUME! NO ONE MUST KNOW MY TRUE IDENTITY!



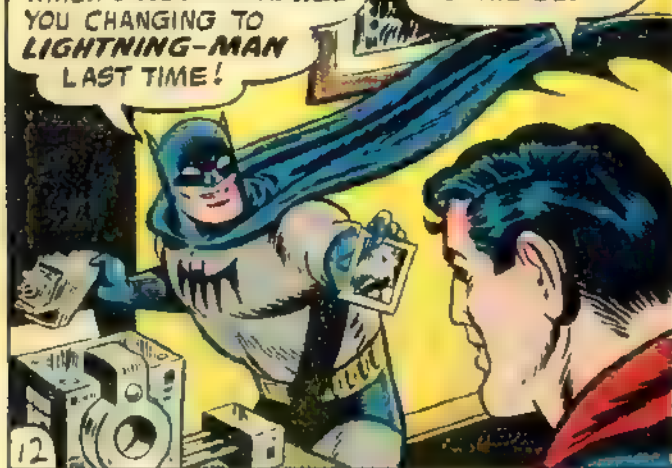
AND EACH TIME, WHEN THE KRYPTONITE AMNESIA-INFLUENCE PASSED AWAY, YOU COULDN'T REMEMBER THAT YOU'D BEEN LIGHTNING-MAN.

MIND'S A BLANK... MUST'VE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS ALL THAT TIME!



I FIGURED THAT WAS IT, FROM THE CLUE OF THE MISSING DRAPE-- AND PLANTED THIS AUTOMATIC CAMERA, WHICH PHOTOGRAPHED YOU CHANGING TO LIGHTNING-MAN LAST TIME!

BUT NOW THAT THE KRYPTONITE SATELITE'S GONE, IT CAN'T HAPPEN AGAIN-- AND I'LL EXPLAIN TO THE CLUB!



SO BACK AT THE CLUB OF HEROES, LATER...

YOU WON THE CHAIRMANSHIP FAIRLY AS LIGHTNING-MAN... SO WE INSIST THAT AS SUPERMAN, YOU KEEP IT!

I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN ALL THE TIME-- NO ONE COULD EVER TOP SUPERMAN, EXCEPT HIMSELF!



THE END





THE  
BATMAN OF  
ZUR-EN-ARRH

UH-OH

# PART TWO

## SUPERNATURAL AND STRANGE HAPPENSTANCE





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NO. 112

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

# BATMAN

THE FAMED LAWMAN  
ASKS THE BIGGEST  
QUESTION OF HIS LIFE--  
**"AM I Really  
BATMAN?"**

THERE'S THE MAN WHO  
THINKS HE'S *BATMAN*,  
OFFICER--BUT *THIS* IS THE  
*REAL BATMAN* NEXT  
TO ME!

WHAT'S HAPPENING  
TO ME? IF I'M NOT  
*BATMAN*--WHO  
AM I?







# BATMAN



**I**T WAS LIKE A NIGHTMARE, AS EVERYTHING THAT BATMAN TOOK FOR GRANTED SUDDENLY SEEMED A LIE--SOMETHING HE IMAGINED! INDEED, EVEN DICK GRAYSON, WHO IS REALLY ROBIN, DENIED KNOWING BATMAN'S EXISTENCE! THUS, THE MAN WEARING THE BATMAN COSTUME SOON HAD TO ASK HIMSELF THE TERRIBLE QUESTION...



## AM I REALLY BATMAN?



DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME, DICK? I'M BRUCE WAYNE... BATMAN!

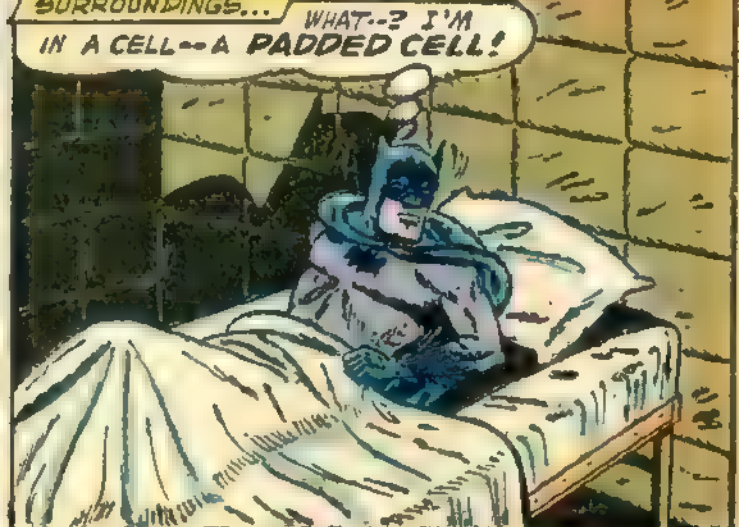
NO! YOU'RE NOT THE REAL BRUCE WAYNE-- AND THE REAL BRUCE WAYNE IS NOT BATMAN!

**A** CAPED FIGURE AWAKENS FROM SLEEP, STIRS LISTLESSLY...



FUNNY-- I DON'T FEEL LIKE DOING ANYTHING AT ALL TODAY... DON'T EVEN WANT TO GET UP!

SUDDENLY, THE EYES SNAP OPEN AS THEY BECOME AWARE OF THE STRANGE SURROUNDINGS...

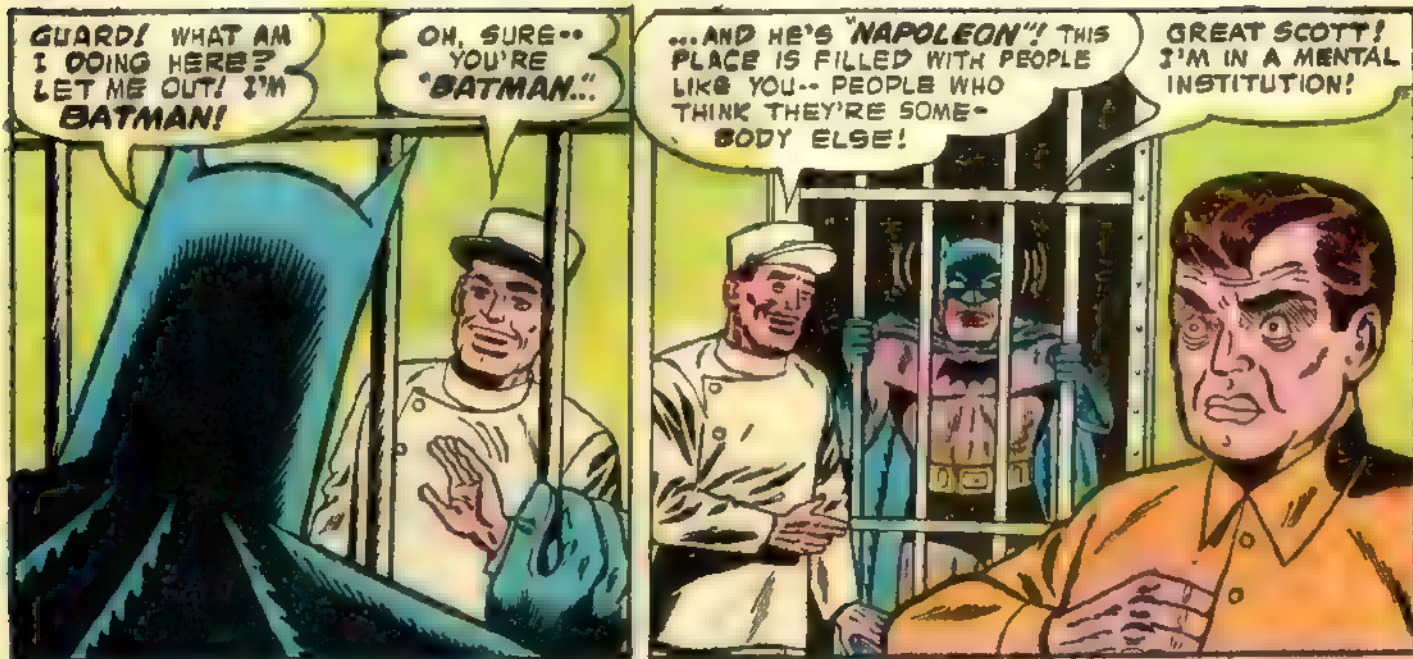


WHAT--? I'M IN A CELL-- A PADDED CELL!





# BATMAN



GUARD! WHAT AM I DOING HERE? LET ME OUT! I'M BATMAN!

OH, SURE-- YOU'RE "BATMAN..."

...AND HE'S "NAPOLEON"! THIS PLACE IS FILLED WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOU-- PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY'RE SOMEBODY ELSE!

GREAT SCOTT! I'M IN A MENTAL INSTITUTION!

THE TERRIBLE THOUGHT ROUSES BATMAN INTO A NEAR FRENZY...

I'M REALLY BATMAN! CALL ROBIN-- HE'LL TELL YOU I'M REALLY BATMAN!

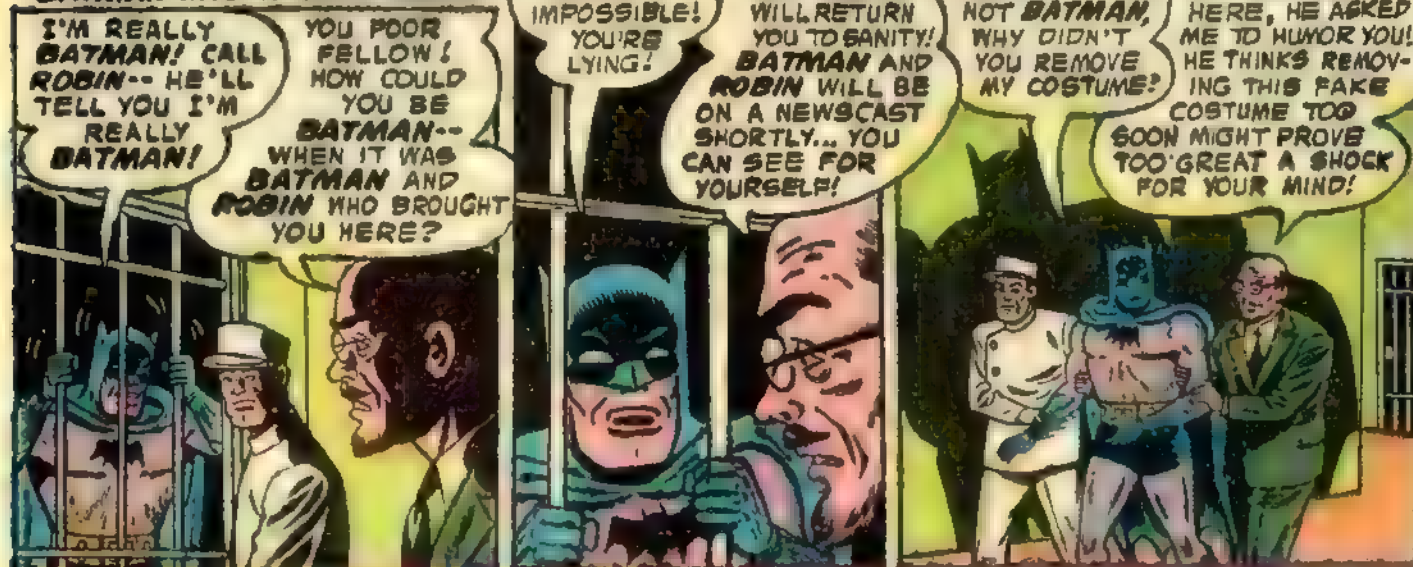
YOU POOR FELLOW! HOW COULD YOU BE BATMAN-- WHEN IT WAS BATMAN AND ROBIN WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE?

NO! THAT'S CRAZY-- IMPOSSIBLE! YOU'RE LYING!

PERHAPS THE TRUTH WILL RETURN YOU TO SANITY! BATMAN AND ROBIN WILL BE ON A NEWSCAST SHORTLY... YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF!

YOU MUST BE LYING! IF I'M NOT BATMAN, WHY DIDN'T YOU REMOVE MY COSTUME?

WHEN BATMAN BROUGHT YOU HERE, HE ASKED ME TO HUMOR YOU! HE THINKS REMOVING THIS FAKE COSTUME TOO SOON MIGHT PROVE TOO GREAT A SHOCK FOR YOUR MIND!



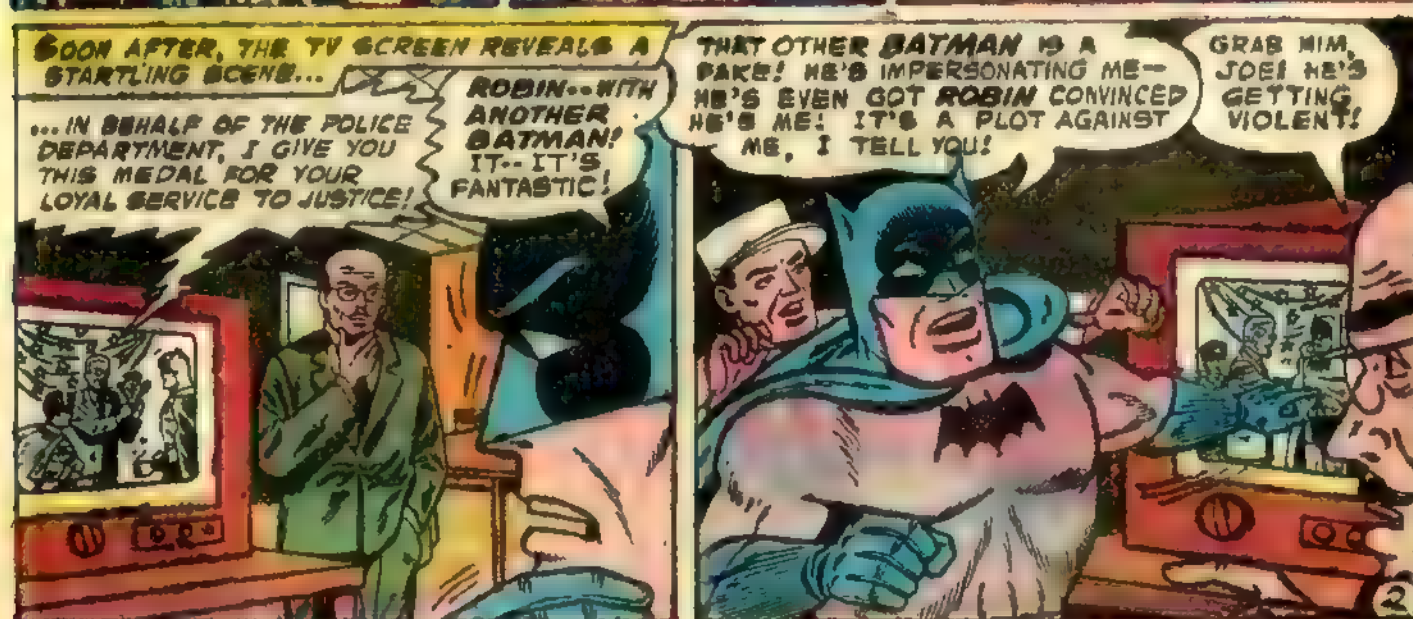
SOON AFTER, THE TV SCREEN REVEALS A STARTLING SCENE...

...IN BEHALF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, I GIVE YOU THIS MEDAL FOR YOUR LOYAL SERVICE TO JUSTICE!

ROBIN-- WITH ANOTHER BATMAN! IT-- IT'S FANTASTIC!

THAT OTHER BATMAN IS A FAKE! HE'S IMPERSONATING ME-- HE'S EVEN GOT ROBIN CONVINCED HE'S ME! IT'S A PLOT AGAINST ME, I TELL YOU!

GRAB HIM, JOE! HE'S GETTING VIOLENT!







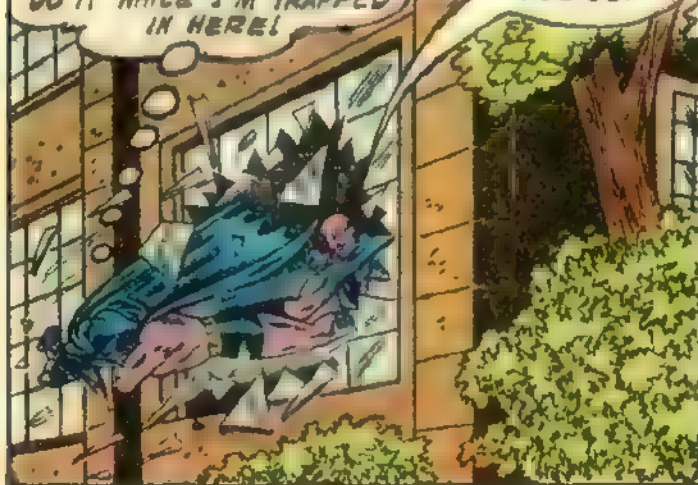
# BATMAN



ONE THOUGHT DRIVES BATMAN ONWARD...  
ESCAPE...

I'VE GOT TO PROVE MY  
IDENTITY--AND I CAN'T  
DO IT WHILE I'M TRAPPED  
IN HERE!

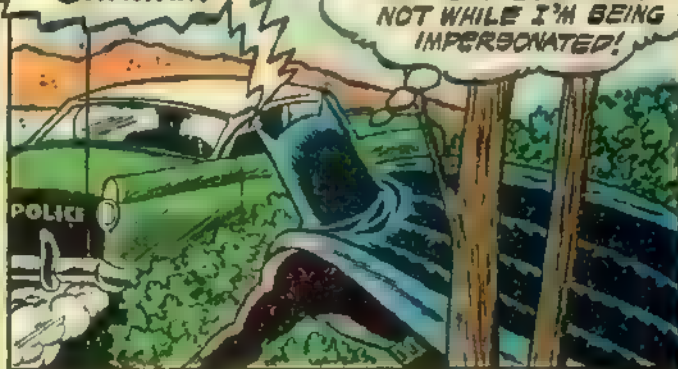
JOE! HE'S GETTING  
AWAY! PHONE THE  
POLICE!



THUS DOES BATMAN, WHO HAS HUNTED  
HUNDREDS OF CRIMINALS, FIND HIMSELF  
A HUNTED MAN!

BE ON THE LOOKOUT  
FOR AN INMATE WHO  
BELIEVES HE IS  
BATMAN!

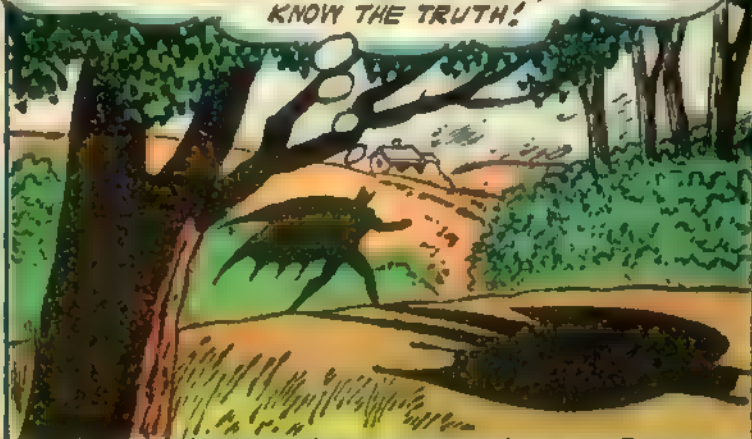
NOW I'M THE ONE  
HIDING FROM THE  
POLICE! I'LL NEVER  
CONVINCE ANYONE I'M  
THE REAL BATMAN--  
NOT WHILE I'M BEING  
IMPERSONATED!



HOW COULD ALL THIS HAVE HAPPENED? THE  
LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS CAPTURING  
THAT RENEGADE SCIENTIST, PROFESSOR  
MILO... BUT THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER!  
WHAT HAPPENED AFTER  
THAT?



WHERE CAN I GO NOW? HOME?... TO THE WAYNE  
MANSION? OF COURSE... I'M REALLY BRUCE  
WAYNE... AND ROBIN IS REALLY DICK GRAYSON,  
MY WARD! ONCE I UNMASK MYSELF, DICK WILL  
KNOW THE TRUTH!

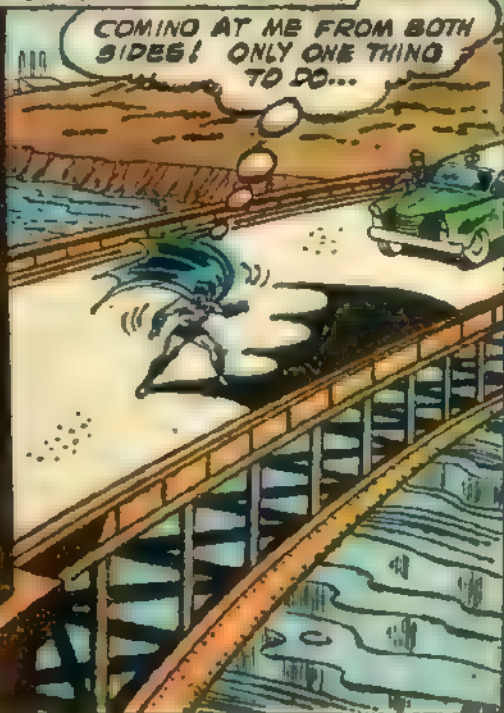


BUT THE WAY HOME IS A PATH OF CONSTANT PERIL...

THERE HE IS--THE  
MADMAN WHO THINKS  
HE'S BATMAN!



COMING AT ME FROM BOTH  
SIDES! ONLY ONE THING  
TO DO...



HE GOT  
AWAY!







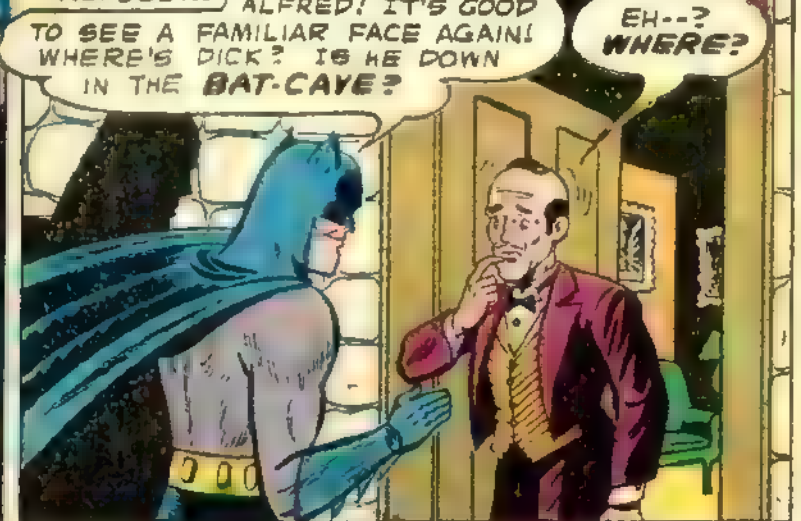
# BATMAN



LATER, AS BATMAN APPROACHES THE WAYNE MANSION... MUST MAKE SURE THE POLICE HAVEN'T TRAILED ME HERE... OTHERWISE THEY'LL REALIZE THAT THE SECRET IDENTITY OF BATMAN IS BRUCE WAYNE!



AND SO AT LAST, THE HUNTED MAN REACHES HIS REFUGE... ALFRED! IT'S GOOD TO SEE A FAMILIAR FACE AGAIN! WHERE'S DICK? IS HE DOWN IN THE BAT-CAVE?

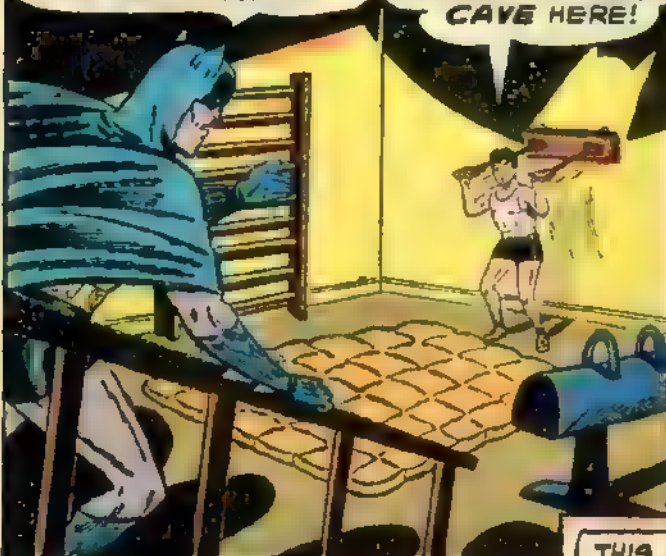


EH--? WHERE?

SWIFTLY, BATMAN RUSHES PAST THE BUTLER AND HURRIES DOWNSTAIRS, ONLY TO DISCOVER...

MINUTES LATER, ANOTHER SHOCK GREETSS BATMAN AS A THIRD FIGURE DESCENDS...

THE BAT-CAVE... IT'S GONE! DICK-- WHERE'S THE BAT-CAVE?



GASP! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THERE'S NO BAT-CAVE HERE!

GREAT SCOTT! WHO--WHO ARE YOU?



BRUCE WAYNE, OF COURSE!



YOU CAN'T BE! I'M BRUCE WAYNE! YOU'RE AN IMPOSTOR! DICK, LOOK AT MY FACE! HE'S TRICKED YOU! YOU KNOW MY SECRET IDENTITY-- YOU KNOW I'M BATMAN!



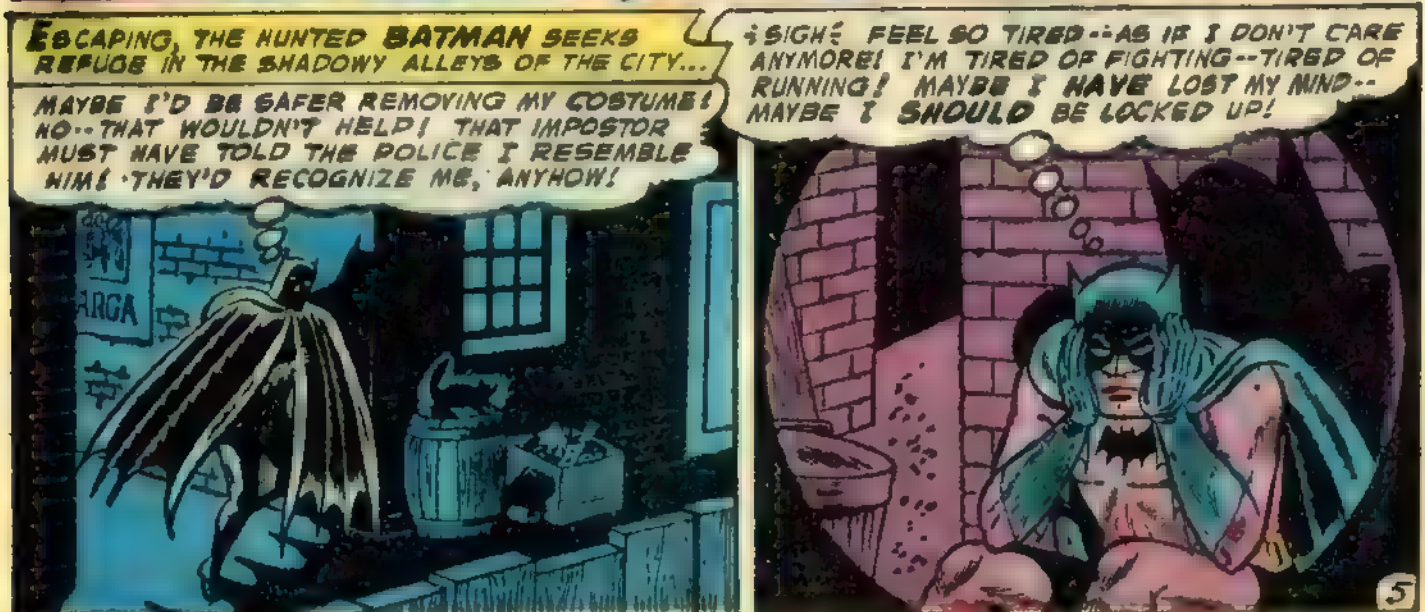
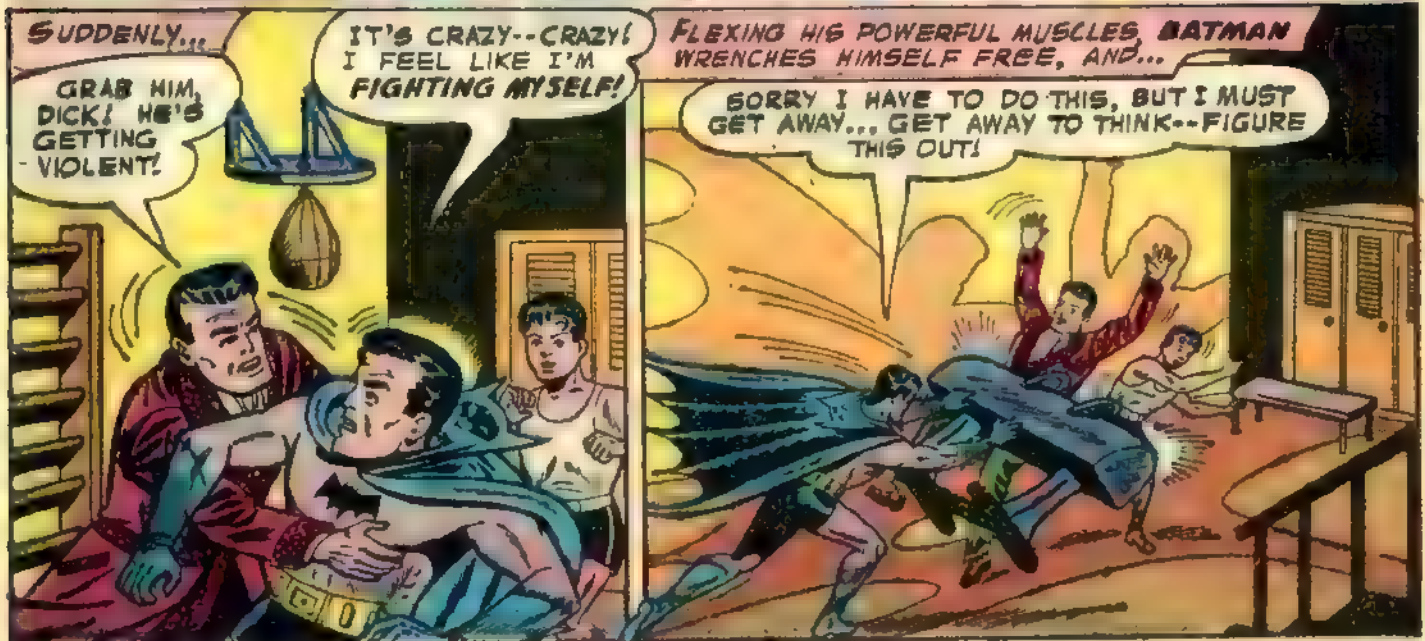
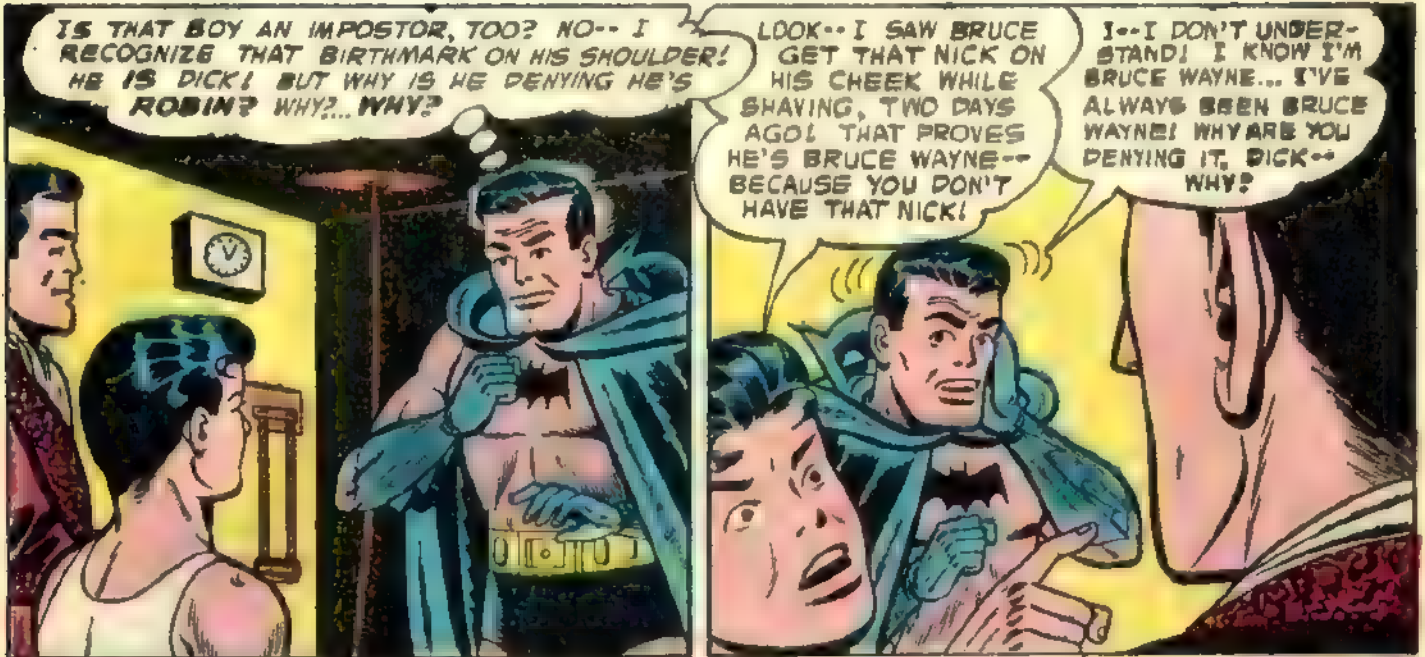
THIS MUST BE THAT ESCAPED MADMAN! POOR FELLOW... HE'S READ SO MUCH ABOUT BATMAN THAT HE FINALLY IMAGINED HE IS BATMAN! AND, BECAUSE HE RESEMBLES ME, HE THINKS BRUCE WAYNE IS BATMAN'S SECRET IDENTITY!



TCH-TCH... AND HE PROBABLY THINKS I'M ROBIN!



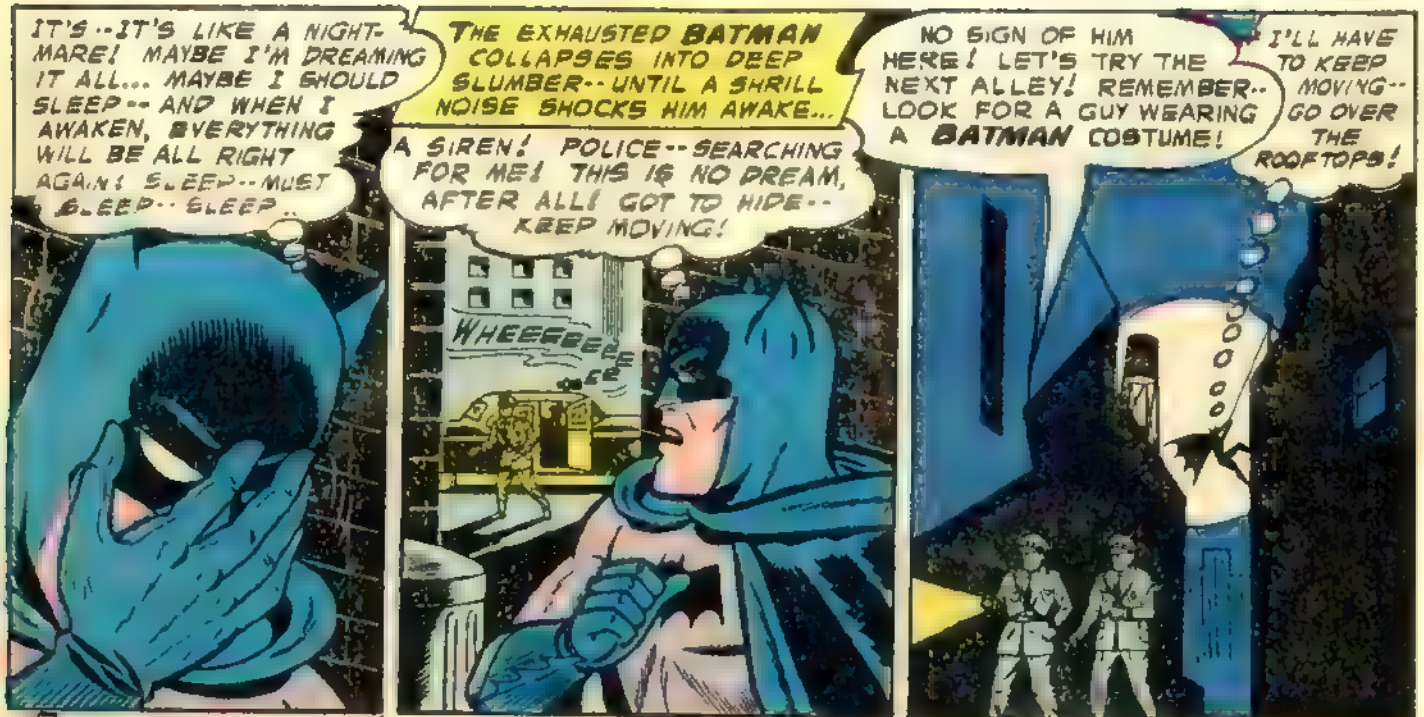








# BATMAN



IT'S--IT'S LIKE A NIGHTMARE! MAYBE I'M DREAMING IT ALL... MAYBE I SHOULD SLEEP-- AND WHEN I AWAKEN, EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT AGAIN! SLEEP-- MUST SLEEP-- SLEEP--

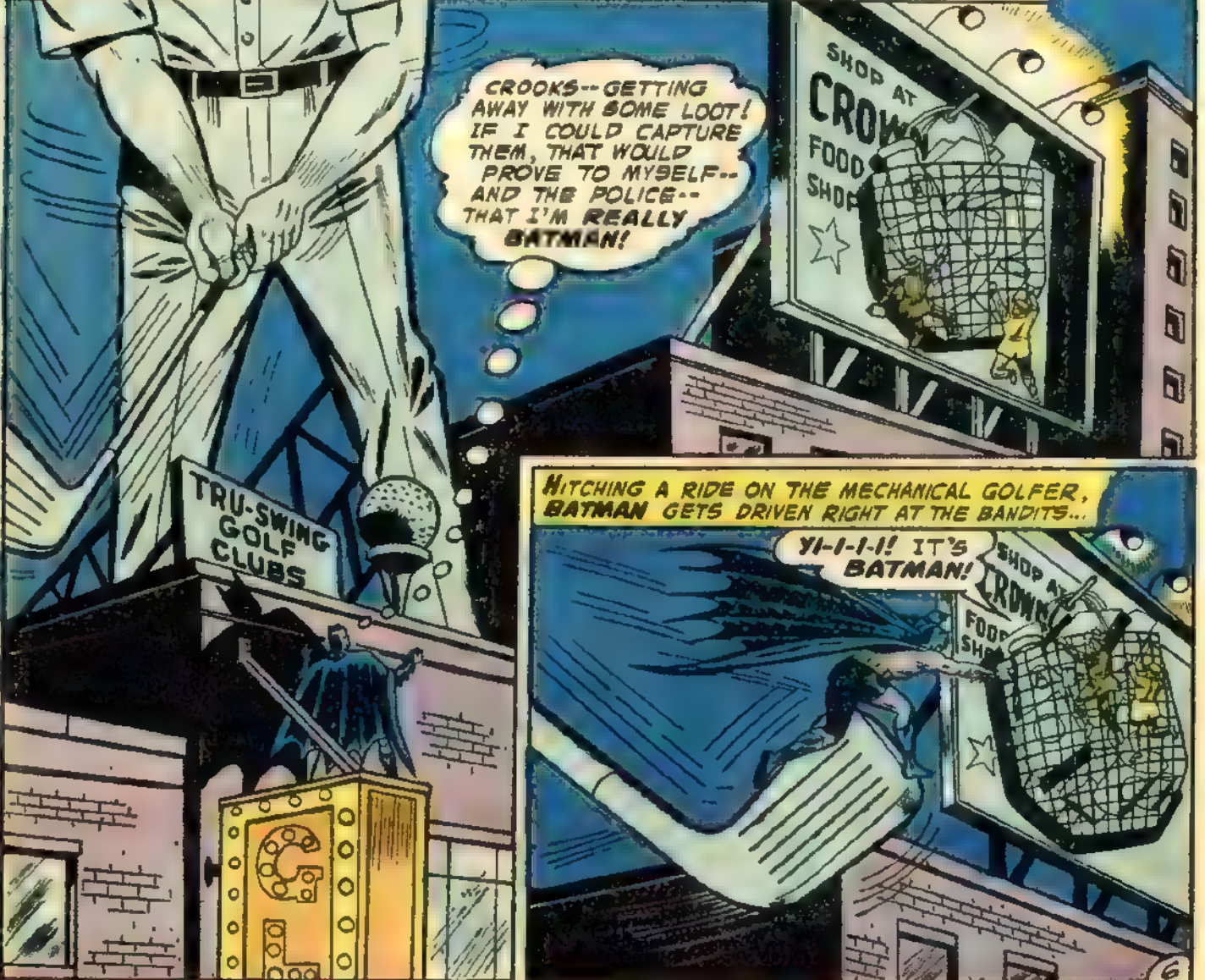
THE EXHAUSTED BATMAN COLLAPSES INTO DEEP SLUMBER-- UNTIL A SHRILL NOISE SHOCKS HIM AWAKE...

A SIREN! POLICE-- SEARCHING FOR ME! THIS IS NO DREAM, AFTER ALL! GOT TO HIDE-- KEEP MOVING!

NO SIGN OF HIM HERE! LET'S TRY THE NEXT ALLEY! REMEMBER-- LOOK FOR A GUY WEARING A BATMAN COSTUME!

I'LL HAVE TO KEEP MOVING-- GO OVER THE ROOFTOPS!

LATER, AS THE MOON LOOKS DOWN ON THE FUGITIVE BATMAN-- AND MEN OF CRIME...



CROOKS-- GETTING AWAY WITH SOME LOOT! IF I COULD CAPTURE THEM, THAT WOULD PROVE TO MYSELF-- AND THE POLICE-- THAT I'M REALLY BATMAN!

HITCHING A RIDE ON THE MECHANICAL GOLFER, BATMAN GETS DRIVEN RIGHT AT THE BANDITS...

YI-I-I-I! IT'S BATMAN!



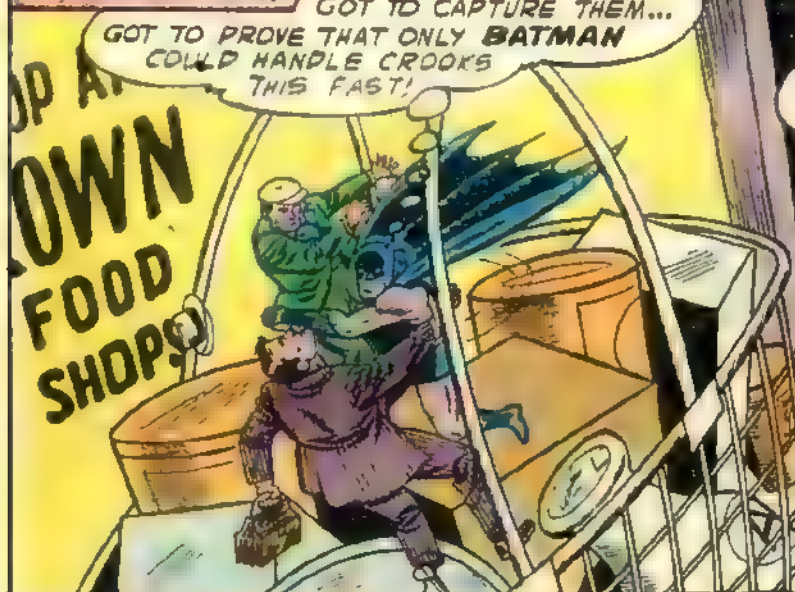


# BATMAN



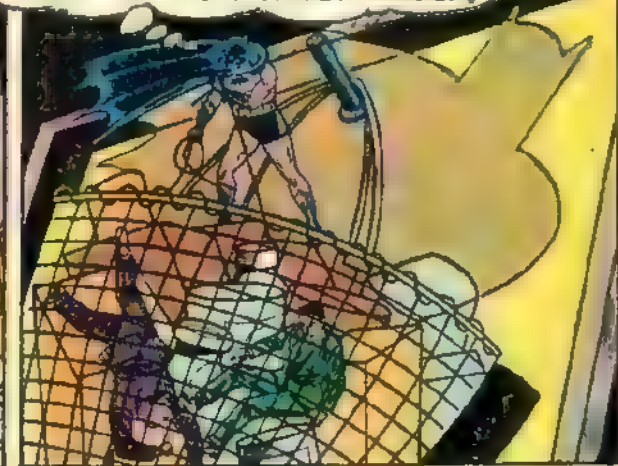
LANDING ON THE ADVERTISING SIGN'S SHOPPING BAG, THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTER FIGHTS WITH A FURY BORN OF DESPERATION...

PITCHING HIS UNCONSCIOUS FOE INTO THE COLOSSAL SHOPPING BAG, BATMAN PULLS ON THE DRAWSTRING, AND...



GOT TO CAPTURE THEM...  
GOT TO PROVE THAT ONLY **BATMAN**  
COULD HANDLE CROOKS  
THIS FAST!

WHEN THE CROOKS TELL HOW I  
CAPTURED THEM, THE POLICE  
MIGHT REALIZE I'VE BEEN TELLING  
THEM THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF!



BUT, AT THAT MOMENT...

MY IMPERSONATOR--AND  
**ROBIN!** THEY'VE COME  
TO INVESTIGATE THE  
ROBBERY! HMM--A  
THOUGHT SUDDENLY  
OCCURS TO ME!  
I WONDER...



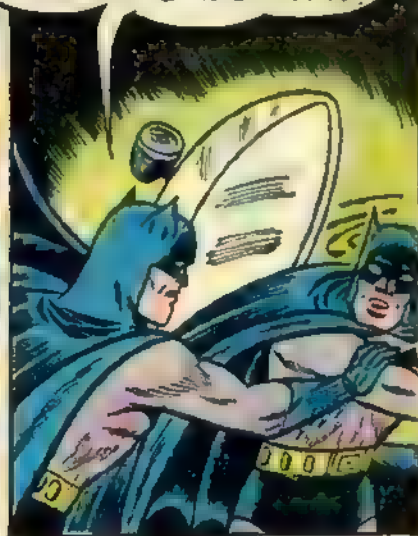
LATER, WHEN THE **BATMOBILE**  
RETURNS TO THE **BAT-CAVE**, A  
FIGURE WARILY OPENS THE TRUNK...

THEY DIDN'T KNOW I CLIMBED IN  
HERE WHILE THEY WERE CHECKING  
ON THAT ROBBERY! SO, I'M NOT  
CRAZY AFTER ALL! THE **BAT-CAVE**  
WAS HERE ALL THE TIME--FORMED  
INTO A "BASEMENT" BY PROP  
WALLS!



ABRUPTLY...

ALL RIGHT, MY FRIENDS--  
START EXPLAINING! THE  
POLICE WEREN'T SEARCHING  
FOR A MAN WHO RESEMBLED  
BRUCE WAYNE--WHICH  
MEANS YOU DIDN'T TELL  
THEM! WHY?...BECAUSE  
YOU WANTED TO **PROTECT**  
**BATMAN'S IDENTITY!**



AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN  
THE MAN POSING AS BRUCE WAYNE  
COULD ONLY BE SOMEBODY WHO  
**ALREADY KNEW MY IDENTITY**

WE SHOULD'VE REALIZED WE  
COULDN'T OUTSMART YOU,  
**BATMAN!** BUT WE CAN  
EXPLAIN--NOW THAT **24**  
**HOURS HAVE PASSED!**







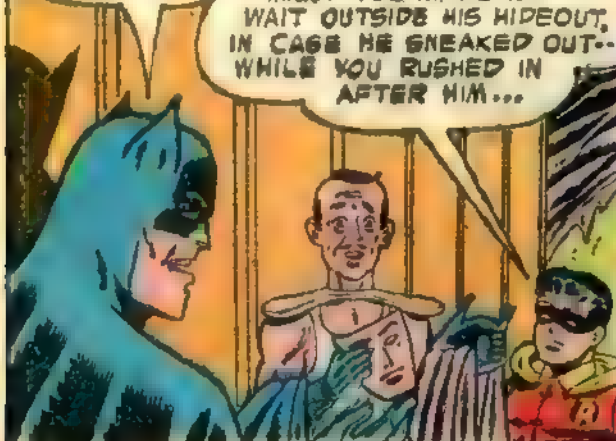
# BATMAN



SWIFTLY, THE IMPOSTOR REMOVES PADDED GARB AND MAKEUP, TO REVEAL...

ALFRED--JUST AS I FIGURED! YOU WERE MY IMPERSONATOR!

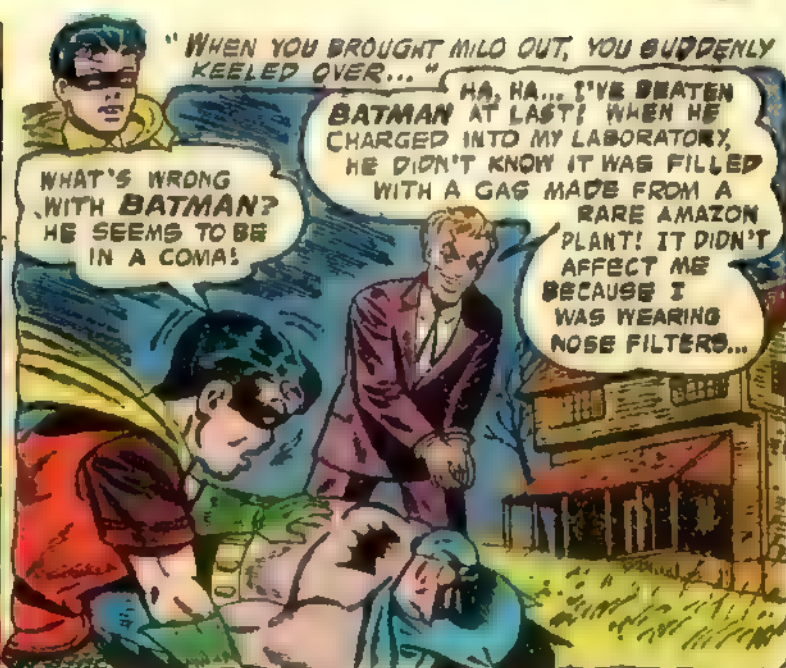
IT ALL BEGAN LAST NIGHT, BATMAN, WHEN YOU AND I WERE AFTER PROFESSOR MILO! YOU MADE ME WAIT OUTSIDE HIS HIDEOUT, IN CASE HE SNEAKED OUT--WHILE YOU RUSHED IN AFTER HIM...



"WHEN YOU BROUGHT MILO OUT, YOU SUDDENLY KEELED OVER..."

WHAT'S WRONG WITH BATMAN? HE SEEMS TO BE IN A COMA!

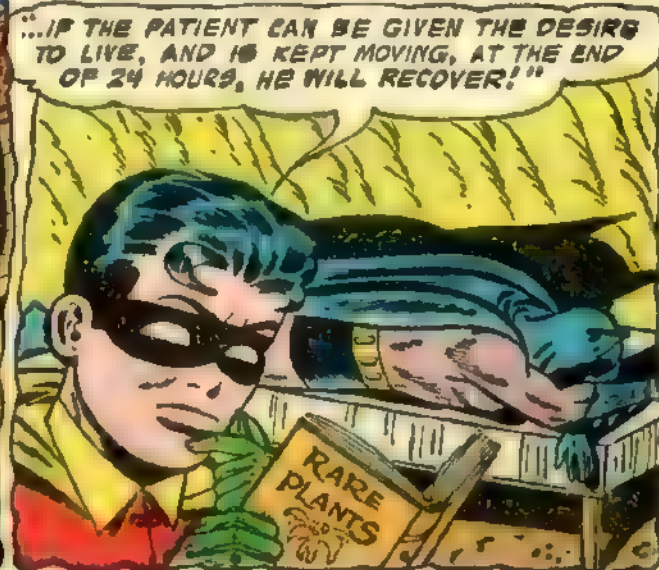
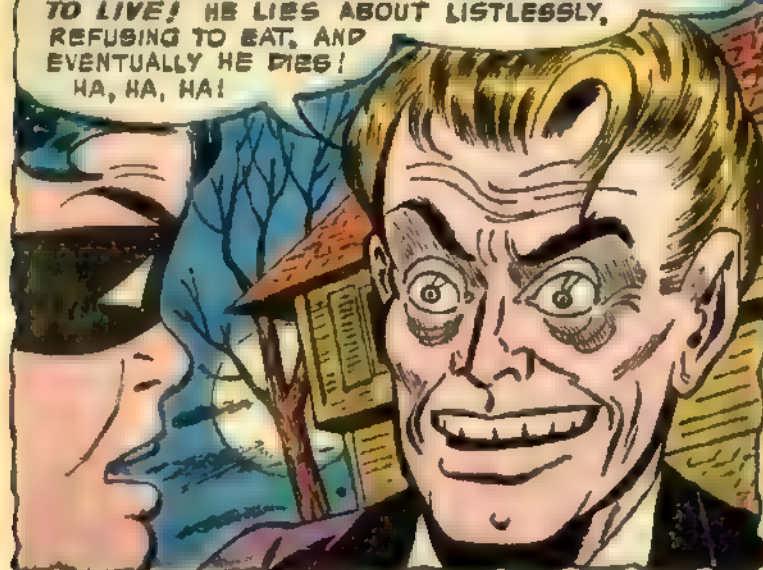
HA, HA... I'VE BEATEN BATMAN AT LAST! WHEN HE CHARGED INTO MY LABORATORY, HE DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS FILLED WITH A GAS MADE FROM A RARE AMAZON PLANT! IT DIDN'T AFFECT ME BECAUSE I WAS WEARING NOSE FILTERS...



THE GAS HAS A UNIQUE EFFECT ON THE PERSON INHALING IT... THE PERSON LOSES THE DESIRE TO LIVE! HE LIES ABOUT LISTLESSLY, REFUSING TO EAT, AND EVENTUALLY HE DIES! HA, HA, HA!

"I QUICKLY DID SOME RESEARCH ON THE PLANT, AND LEARNED ONE FACT..."

"...IF THE PATIENT CAN BE GIVEN THE DESIRE TO LIVE, AND IS KEPT MOVING, AT THE END OF 24 HOURS, HE WILL RECOVER!"



"SO I WENT TO POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON WITH A PLAN..."

...YOU SEE, WE MUST GIVE BATMAN A PURPOSE FOR LIVING, A PROBLEM TO SOLVE--A PROBLEM SO SHOCKING THAT HE WON'T REST UNTIL HE HAS THE ANSWER!

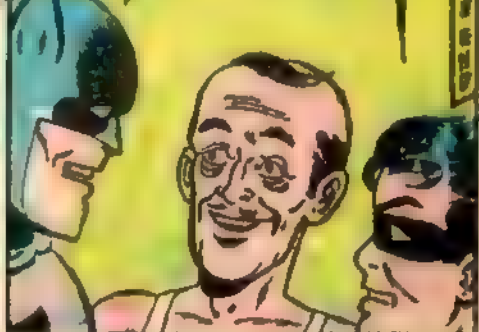
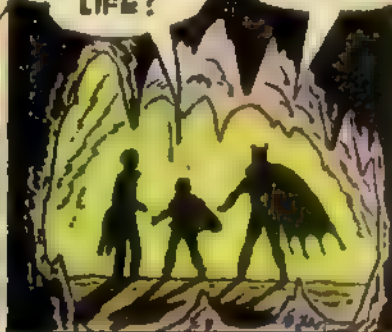
ALL RIGHT, ROBIN... THE POLICE AND THE PEOPLE AT THE MENTAL INSTITUTION WILL COOPERATE! WE ALL WANT TO SEE BATMAN LIVE!

SO I GOT ALFRED TO IMPERSONATE YOU, AS BATMAN AND BRUCE WAYNE--AND THE REST YOU KNOW! IT WAS A DRASTIC MOVE--BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE, TO SAVE YOUR LIFE!

I AGREE... IT CERTAINLY KEPT MY BRAIN AWAKE, AND KEPT ME ON THE MOVE!

BUT--IT'S ALL OVER NOW! I CAN GO TO SLEEP AND WAKE UP TOMORROW, KNOWING THAT EVERYTHING IS BACK TO NORMAL!

YES... AND THAT BATMAN WILL BE BACK ON THE JOB--AS USUAL!







10¢

FEB.  
NO. 113

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

# BATMAN

Featuring  
**"BATMAN-  
SUPERMAN  
of PLANET X!"**

THEIR RAY  
GUNS CAN'T HARM  
ME--ON THIS  
PLANET I'M A  
**SUPER-  
BATMAN!**







BATMAN



# BATMAN

With  
**ROBIN**  
THE BOY WONDER



**H**E'S FAR FASTER THAN A SPEEDING ATOMIC-JET! WITH EASE, HE LEAPS OVER TOWERING BUILDINGS! RAY-BULLETS BOUNCE HARMLESSLY OFF HIS CHEST! IS IT A BIRD? A PLANE? NO--IT'S **BATMAN!** AND THIS TIME, THERE'S A HOST OF SURPRISES FOR THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTER OF GOTHAM CITY, AS HE EMBARKS UPON AN AMAZING OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD ADVENTURE TO BECOME...

**BATMAN--**  
THE  
**SUPERMAN**  
OF  
**PLANET X!**

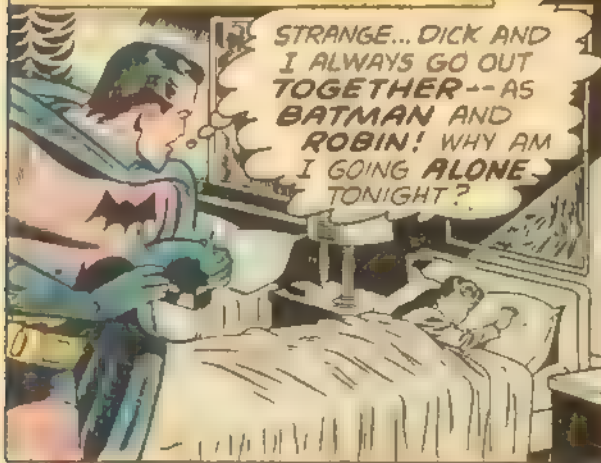




# BATMAN

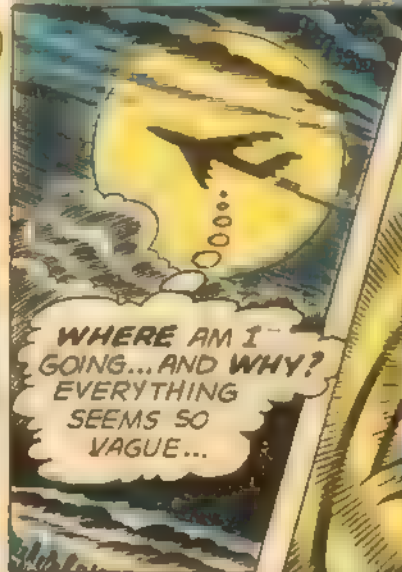


AT HIS MANSION, WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE ARISES IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT-- AND, WHILE DONNING A FAMILIAR COSTUME, STARES ODDLY AT HIS SLEEPING WARD, DICK GRAYSON...



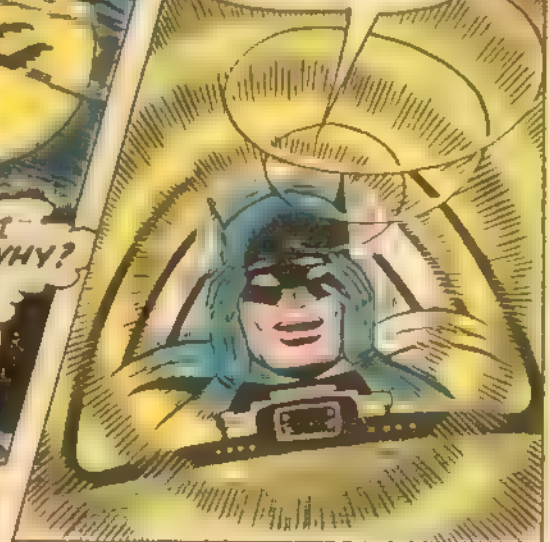
STRANGE... DICK AND I ALWAYS GO OUT TOGETHER-- AS BATMAN AND ROBIN! WHY AM I GOING ALONE TONIGHT?

SOON, IN THE SLEEK BAT-PLANE...



WHERE AM I GOING... AND WHY? EVERYTHING SEEMS SO VAGUE...

S-SOMETHING'S WRONG! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? MY HEAD'S SPINNING...



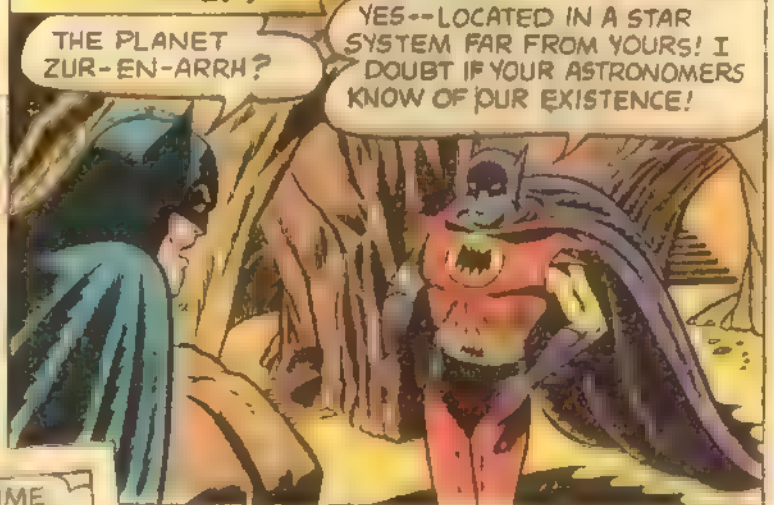
AND JUST AS SUDDENLY AS IT CAME, THE SPINNING SENSATION DEPARTS...



WHERE AM I? I'M NO LONGER IN THE BAT-PLANE...

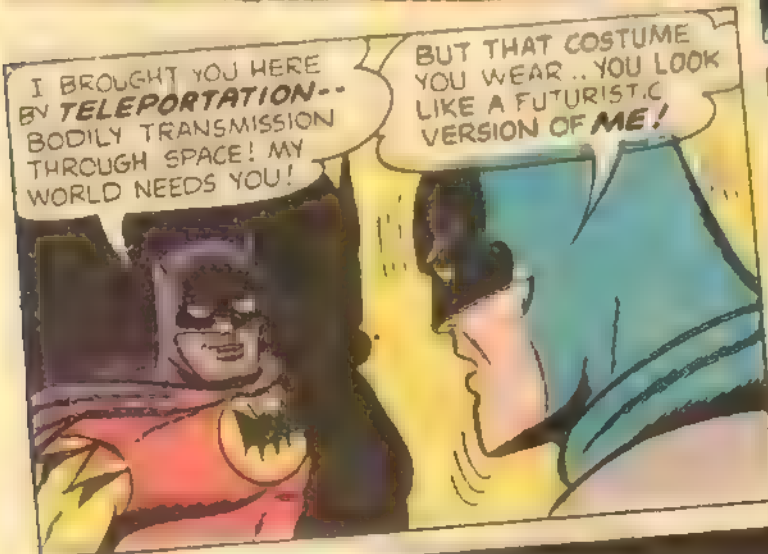
WELCOME BATMAN, TO THE PLANET ZUR-EN-ARRH! I HAVE MASTERED YOUR LANGUAGE-- SO WE MAY TALK!

STUNNED, THE GREAT CRIME-FIGHTER STARES AT A STRANGE FIGURE-- AN UNEARTHLY LIKENESS OF HIMSELF!



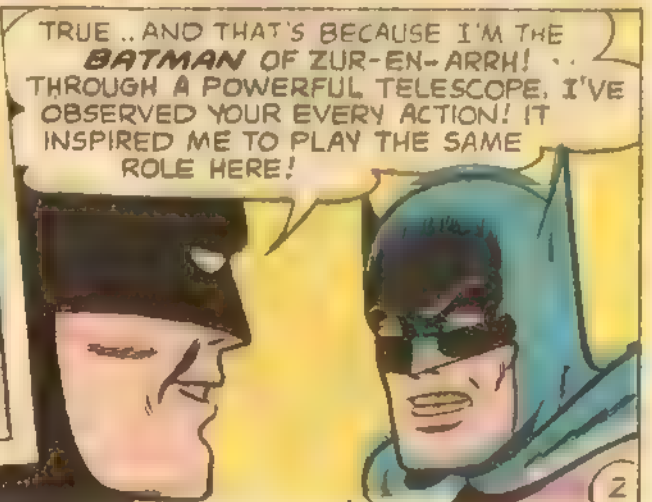
THE PLANET ZUR-EN-ARRH?

YES--LOCATED IN A STAR SYSTEM FAR FROM YOURS! I DOUBT IF YOUR ASTRONOMERS KNOW OF OUR EXISTENCE!



I BROUGHT YOU HERE BY TELEPORTATION-- BODILY TRANSMISSION THROUGH SPACE! MY WORLD NEEDS YOU!

BUT THAT COSTUME YOU WEAR.. YOU LOOK LIKE A FUTURISTIC VERSION OF ME!



TRUE.. AND THAT'S BECAUSE I'M THE BATMAN OF ZUR-EN-ARRH! .. THROUGH A POWERFUL TELESCOPE, I'VE OBSERVED YOUR EVERY ACTION! IT INSPIRED ME TO PLAY THE SAME ROLE HERE!



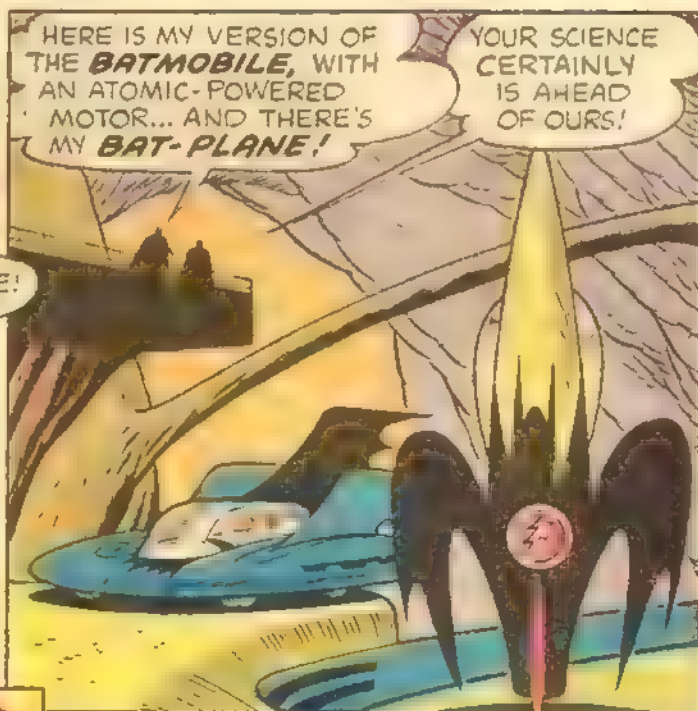


# BATMAN



LIKE YOU, I HAVE ANOTHER IDENTITY--  
I'VE EVEN EMULATED  
YOUR **BAT-CAVE!**

INCREDIBLE!



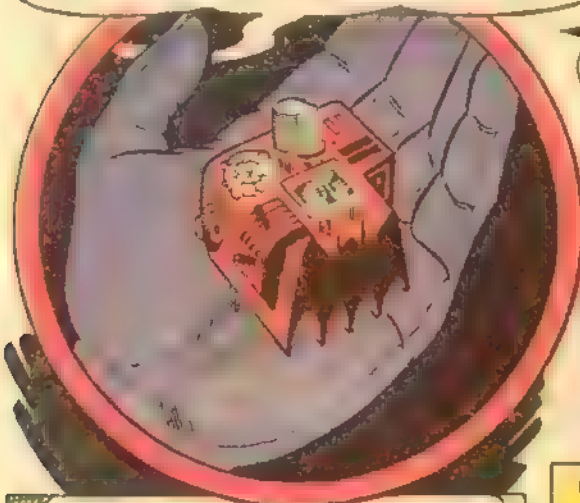
HERE IS MY VERSION OF  
THE **BATMOBILE**, WITH  
AN ATOMIC-POWERED  
MOTOR... AND THERE'S  
MY **BAT-PLANE!**

YOUR SCIENCE  
CERTAINLY  
IS AHEAD  
OF OURS!

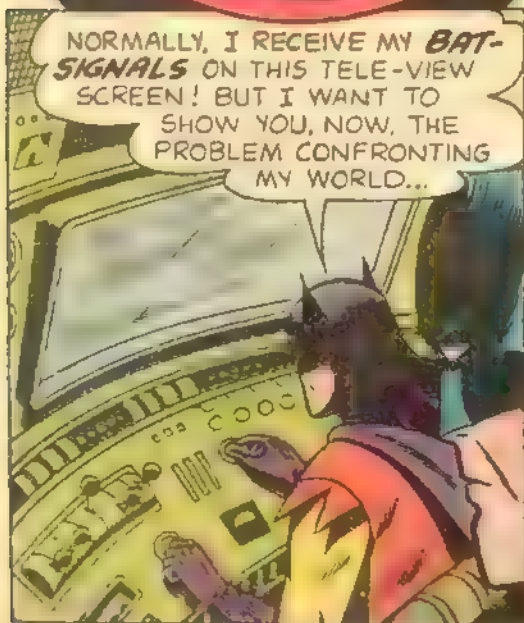
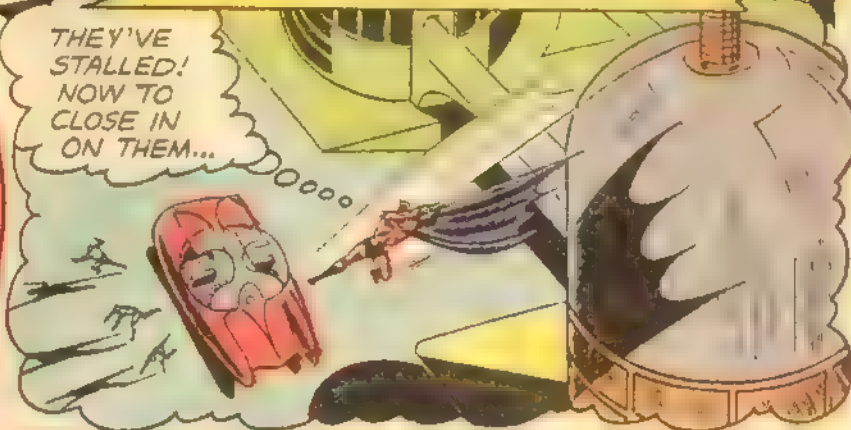
AND HERE IS THE MOST VALUABLE  
OBJECT IN MY UTILITY BELT... THE  
**BAT-RADIA!** IT ISSUES ELECTRONIC  
MOLECULES THAT CAUSE CONTROLLED  
DISTURBANCES IN THE ATMOSPHERE!



"WITH IT, I AM ABLE TO 'JAM' ATMOSPHERIC  
MOLECULES--EVEN RENDER USELESS  
THE MOTORS OF JET-CARS USED BY  
FLEEING ENEMIES..."



THEY'VE  
STALLED!  
NOW TO  
CLOSE IN  
ON THEM...

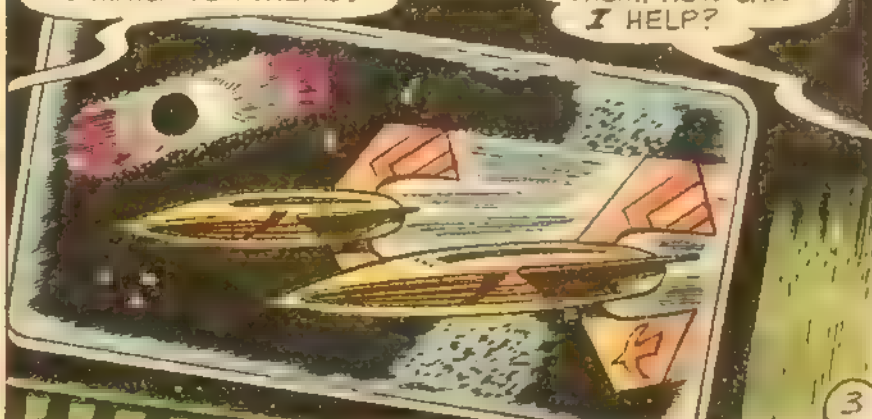


NORMALLY, I RECEIVE MY **BAT-SIGNALS**  
ON THIS TELE-VIEW  
SCREEN! BUT I WANT TO  
SHOW YOU, NOW, THE  
PROBLEM CONFRONTING  
MY WORLD...

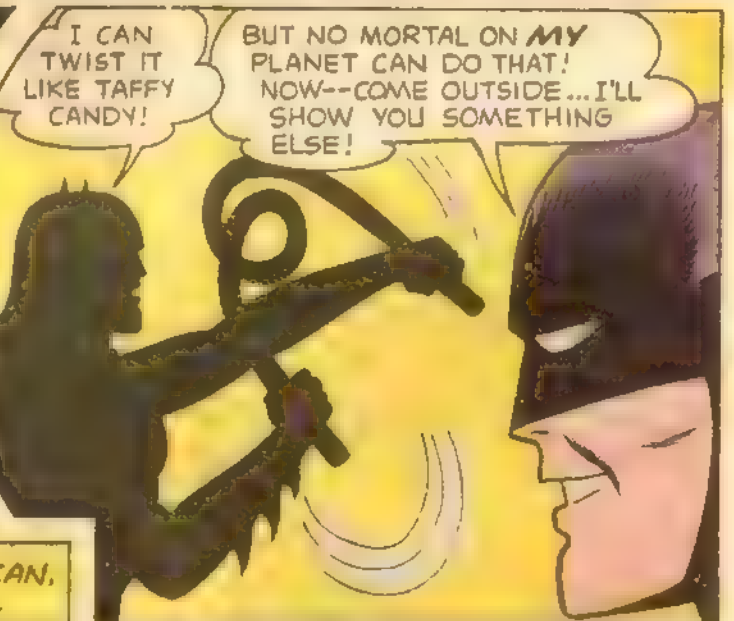
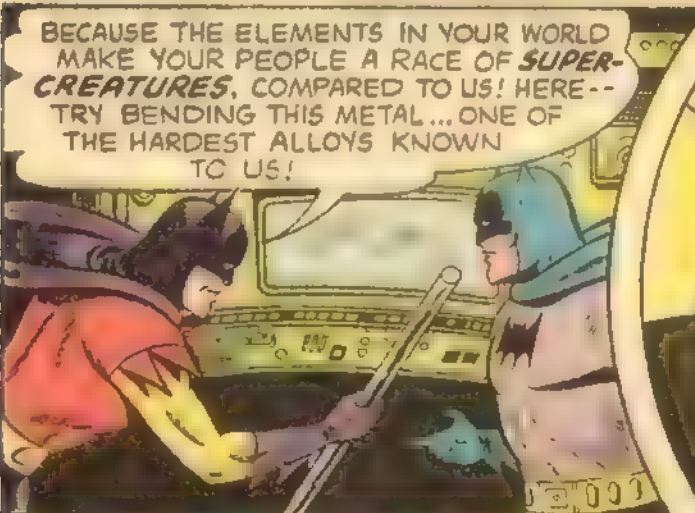
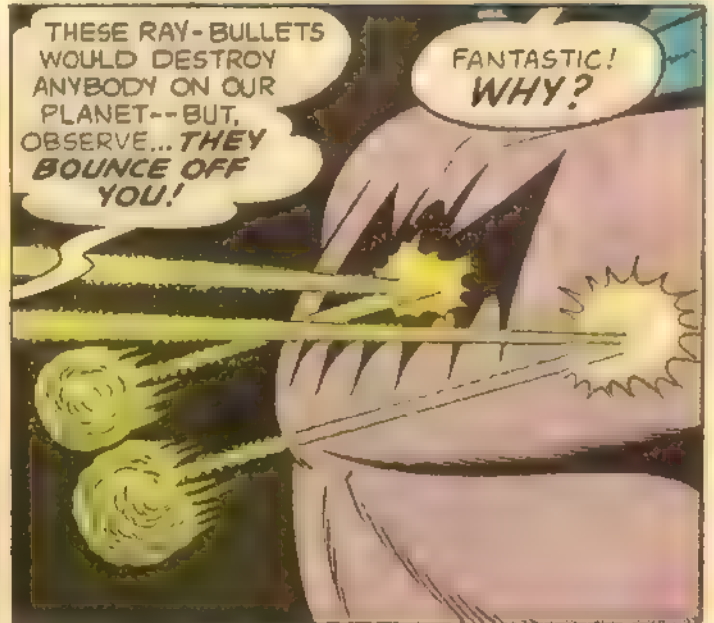
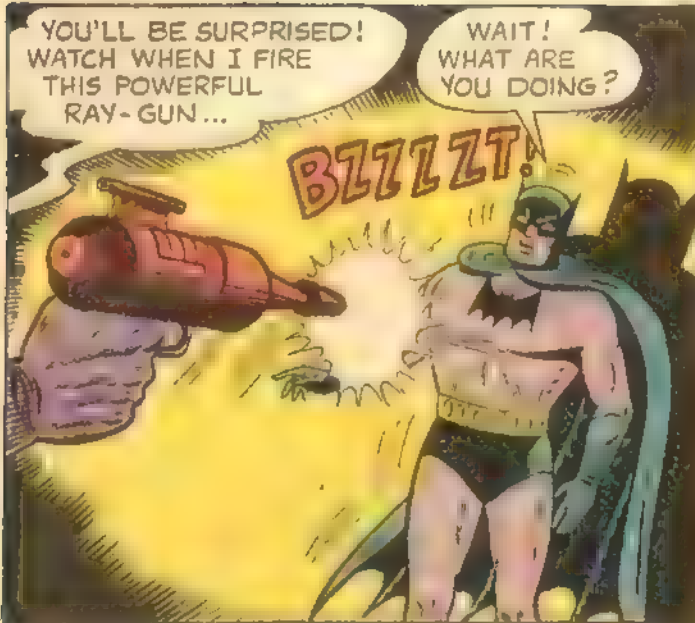
THE SCREEN GLOWS DIMLY AT FIRST, THEN  
BRILLIANTLY, AS A PICTURE COMES INTO VIEW...

THERE THEY ARE--THE INVADERS  
FROM AN ENEMY PLANET! THEY  
HOPE TO DEFEAT US--OCCUPY OUR  
PLANET... AND OUR WEAPONS ARE  
NO MATCH FOR THEIRS!

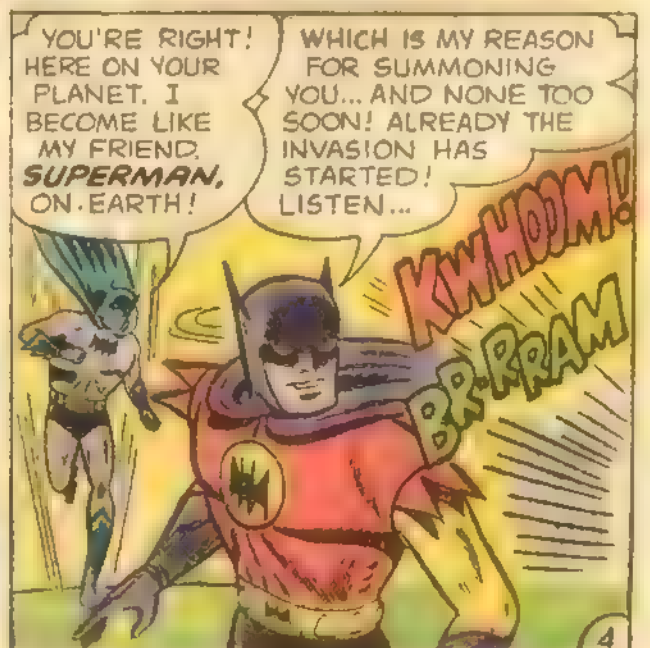
BUT IF EVEN YOUR  
SCIENCE, WHICH IS SO  
FAR ADVANCED,  
CAN'T COPE WITH  
THEM, HOW CAN  
I HELP?







**R**EQUESTED TO LEAP AS HIGH AS HE CAN, BATMAN SAILS FAR INTO THE AIR...







# BATMAN



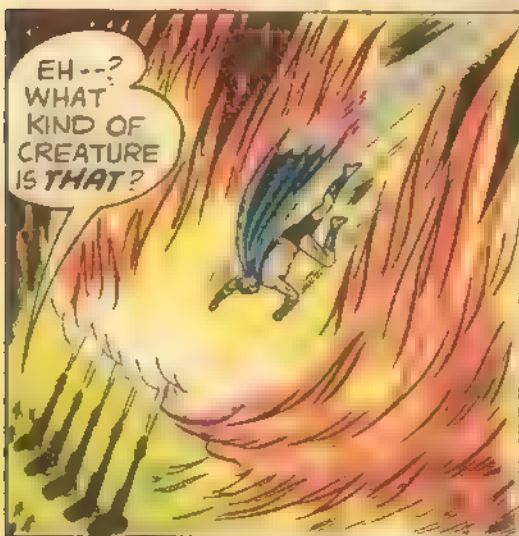
IT WOULD BE FOLLY FOR MY PEOPLE TO STAND AGAINST SUCH SUPERIOR WEAPONS! THEY'RE EVACUATING THE CITY!

LATER, AS MOISTURE-ABSORBING RAY-CANNONS SET UP A GREAT FLAME WALL...

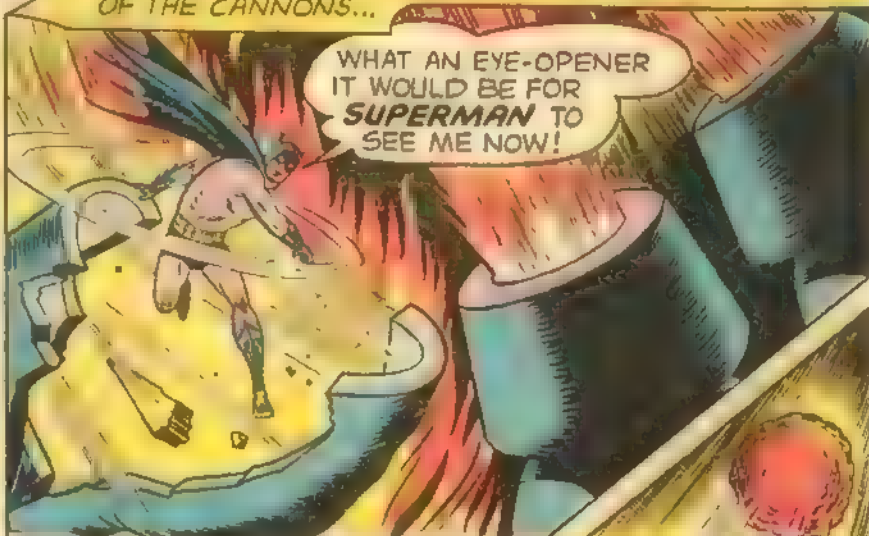
THE PEOPLE OF ZUR-EN-ARRH FLEE! NOW WE'LL BRING THEM TO QUICK SURRENDER-- BY DRYING UP ALL THEIR RESERVOIRS!

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, AN INCREDIBLE FIGURE SOARS HIGH IN THE AIR, ABOVE THE RAY-BLASTS...

SCORNFUL OF THE FIERY RAYS, THE CAPED FIGURE SMASHES RIGHT INTO THE VERY MOUTHS OF THE CANNONS...



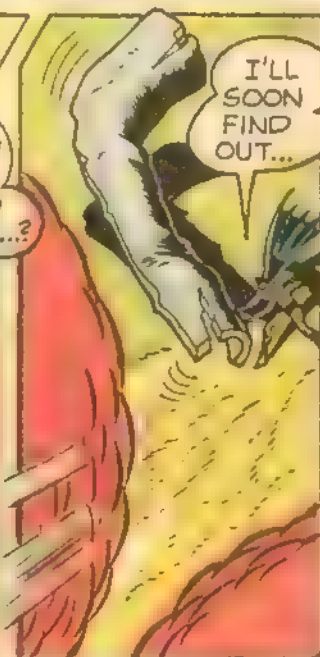
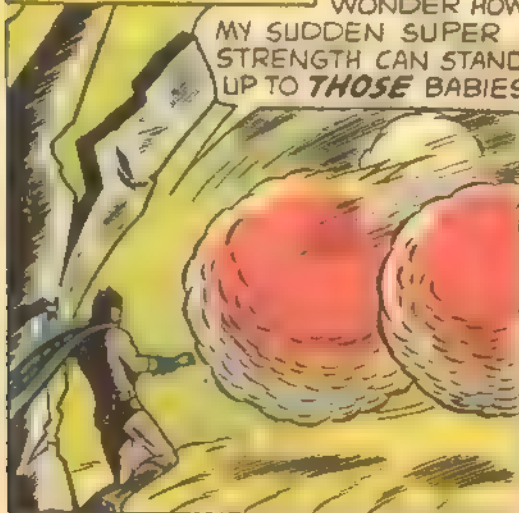
EH--? WHAT KIND OF CREATURE IS THAT?



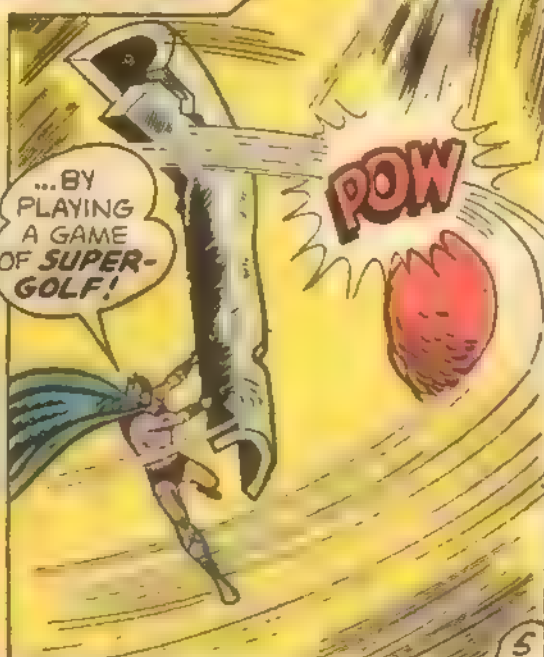
WHAT AN EYE-OPENER IT WOULD BE FOR **SUPERMAN** TO SEE ME NOW!

FIERY NUCLEAR ORBS, CAPABLE OF DISINTEGRATING ANYTHING IN THEIR PATH, ARE UNLEASHED BY THE INVADERS...

WONDER HOW MY SUDDEN SUPER STRENGTH CAN STAND UP TO **THOSE** BABIES...?



I'LL SOON FIND OUT...



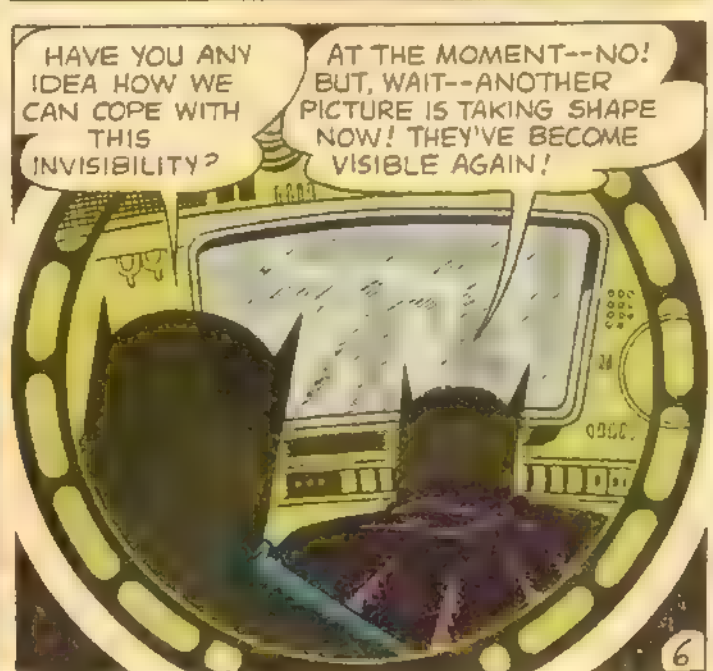
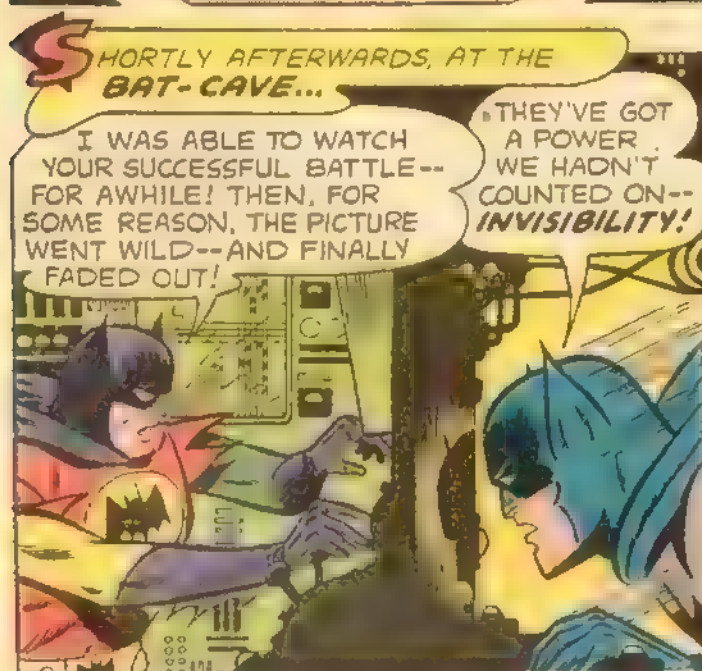
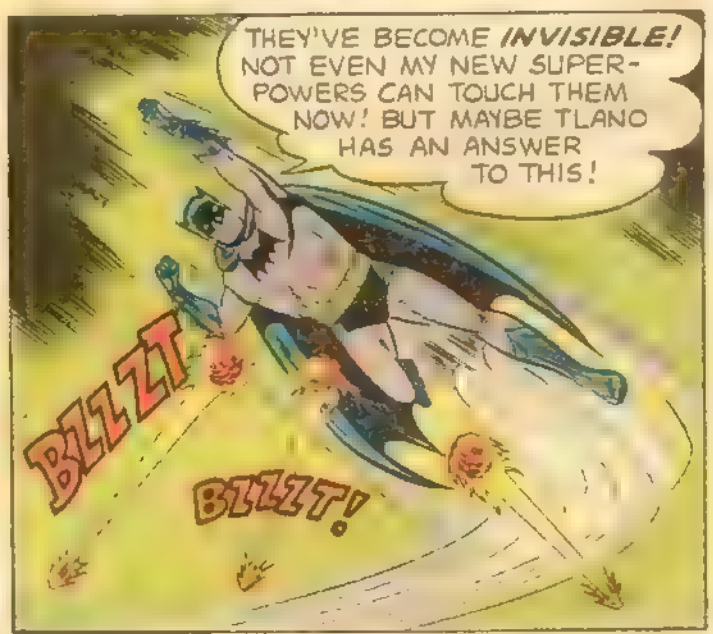
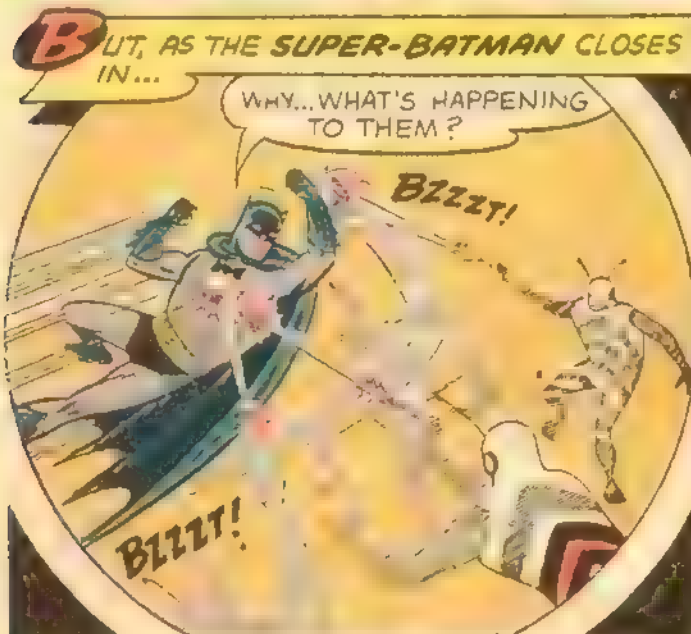
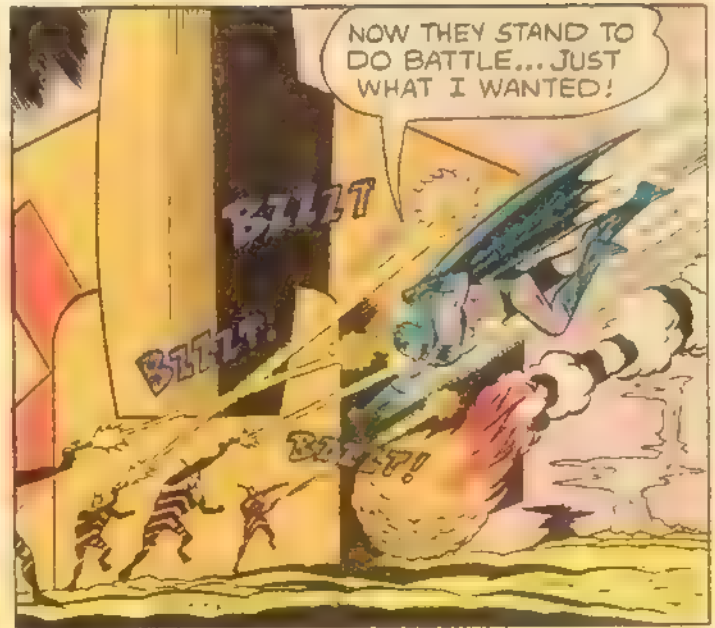
...BY PLAYING A GAME OF **SUPER-GOLF**!

POW

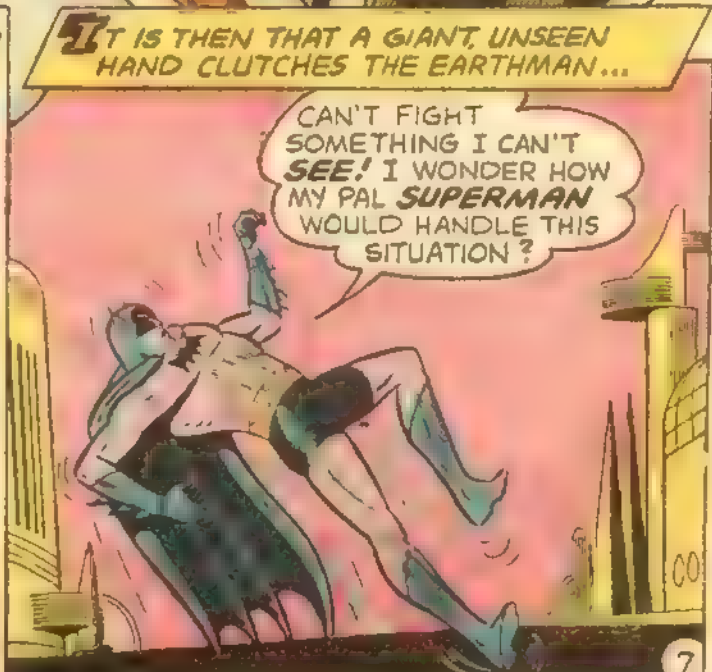
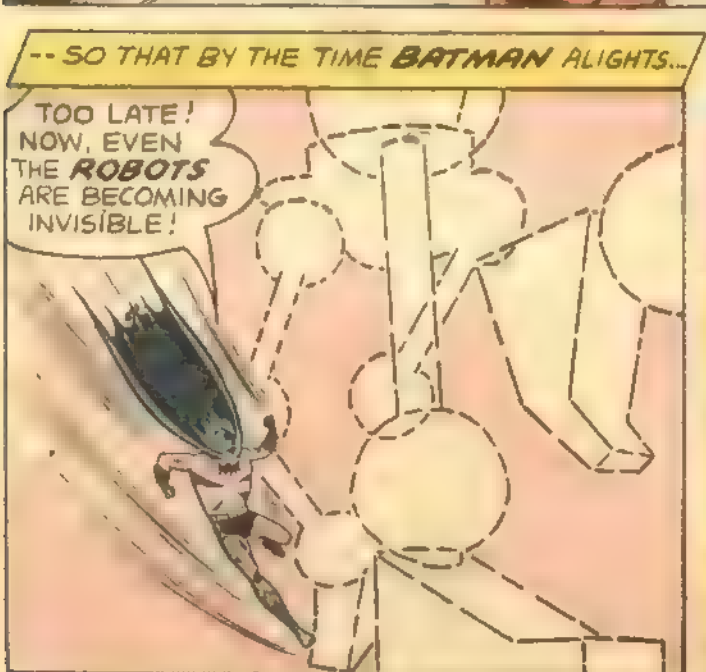
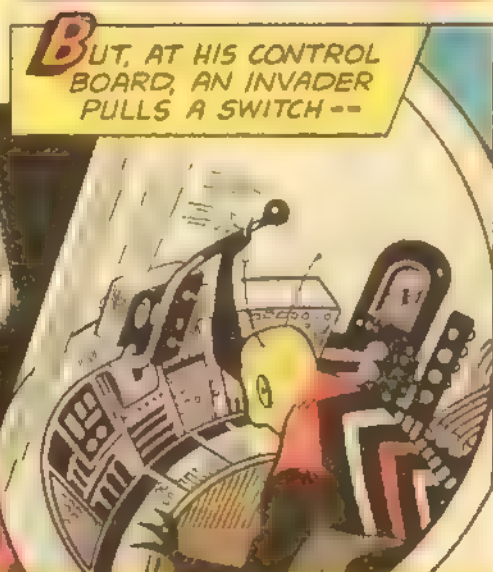
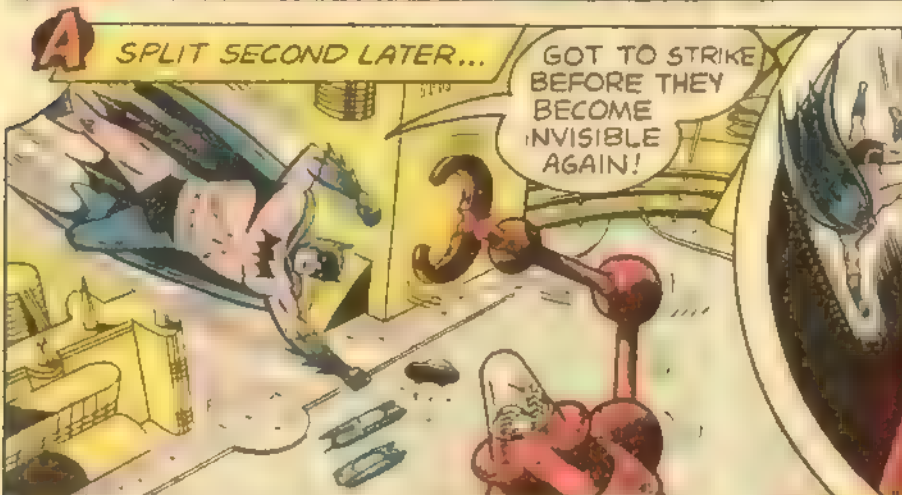
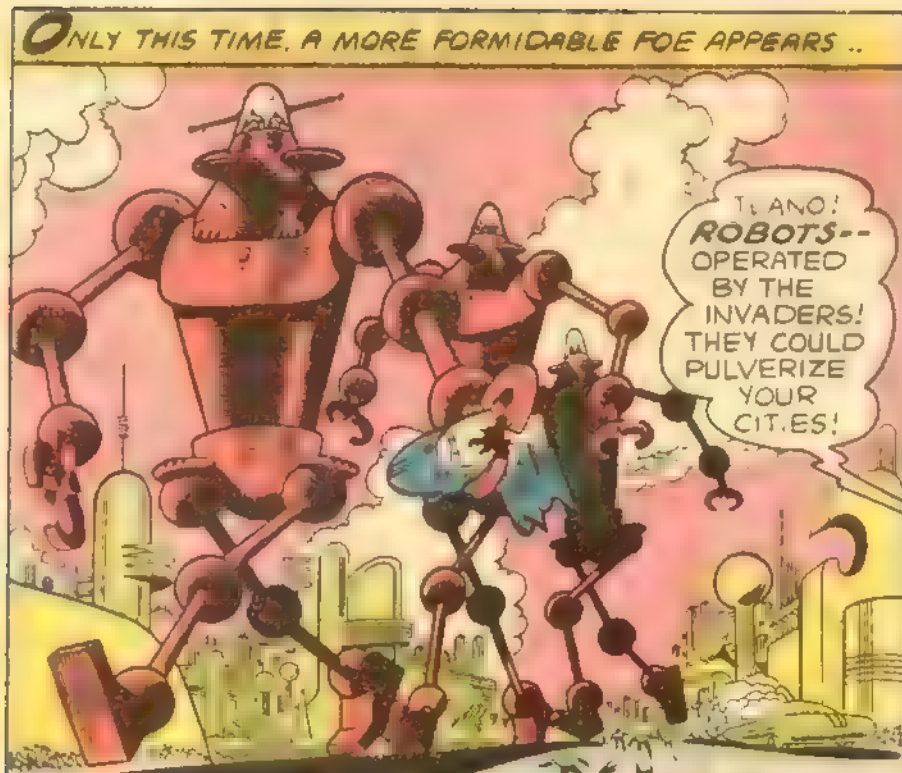




# BATMAN



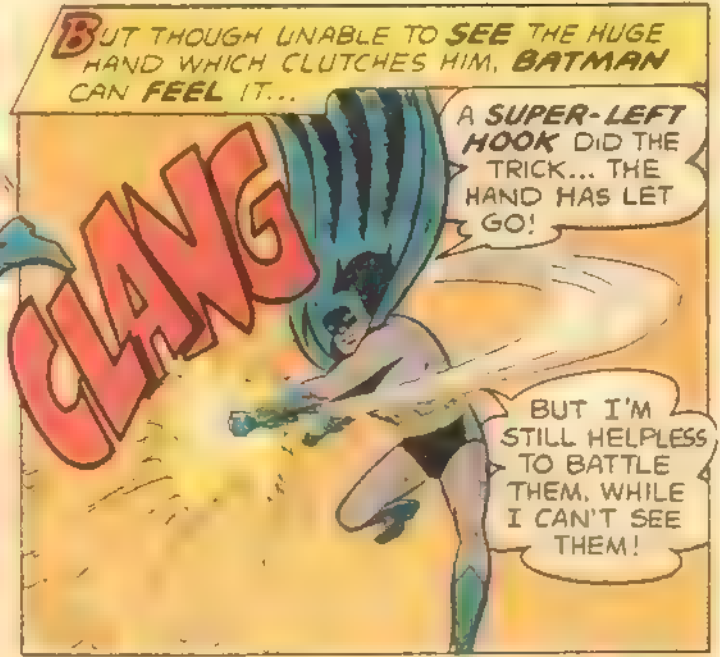








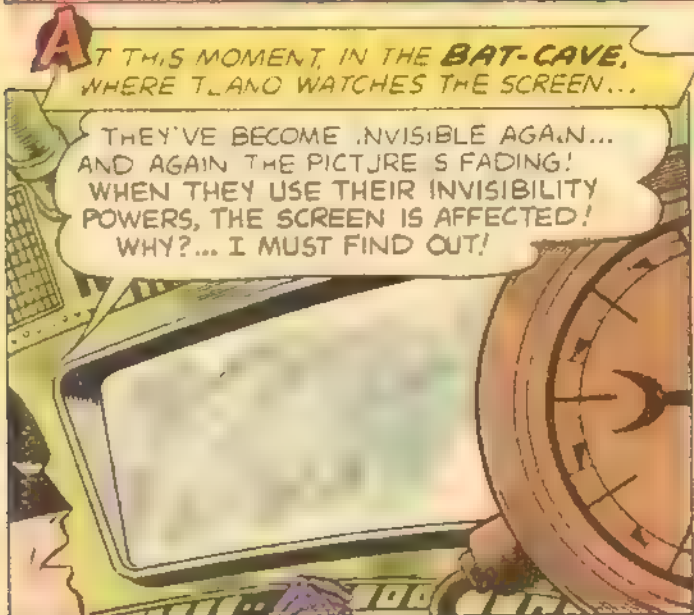
HO! WE WILL WRING THE VERY STRENGTH FROM THIS CREATURE-- THEN WHEN HE IS WEAKENED, DESTROY HIM!



BUT THOUGH UNABLE TO SEE THE HUGE HAND WHICH CLUTCHES HIM, BATMAN CAN FEEL IT...

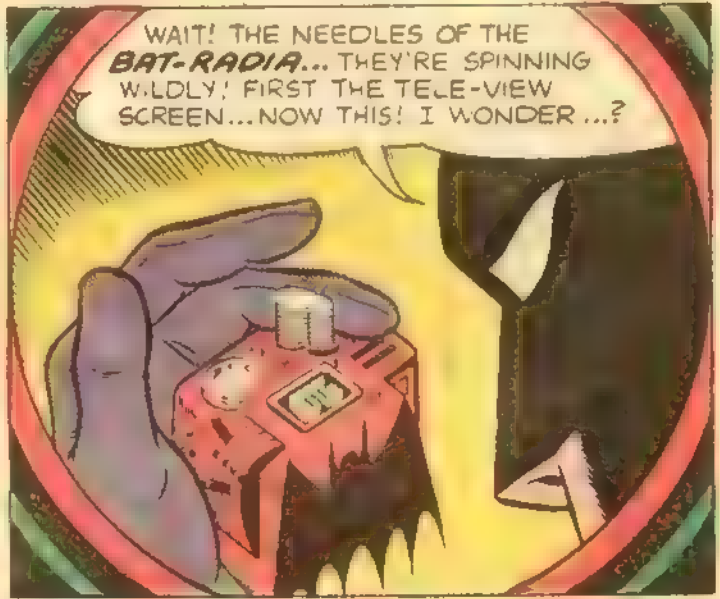
A SUPER-LEFT HOOK DID THE TRICK... THE HAND HAS LET GO!

BUT I'M STILL HELPLESS TO BATTLE THEM, WHILE I CAN'T SEE THEM!

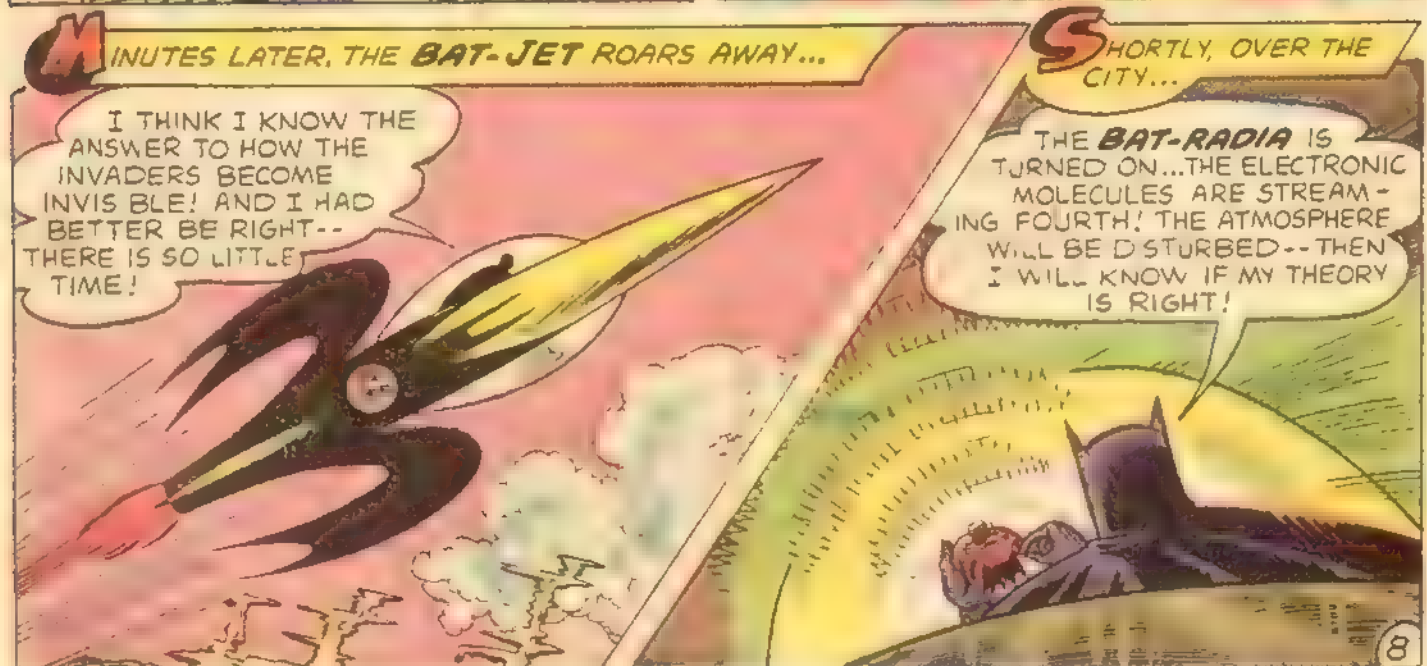


AT THIS MOMENT, IN THE BAT-CAVE, WHERE T.L.A.N.O. WATCHES THE SCREEN...

THEY'VE BECOME INVISIBLE AGAIN... AND AGAIN THE PICTURE'S FADING! WHEN THEY USE THEIR INVISIBILITY POWERS, THE SCREEN IS AFFECTED! WHY?... I MUST FIND OUT!



WAIT! THE NEEDLES OF THE BAT-RADIA... THEY'RE SPINNING WILDLY! FIRST THE TELE-VIEW SCREEN... NOW THIS! I WONDER...?



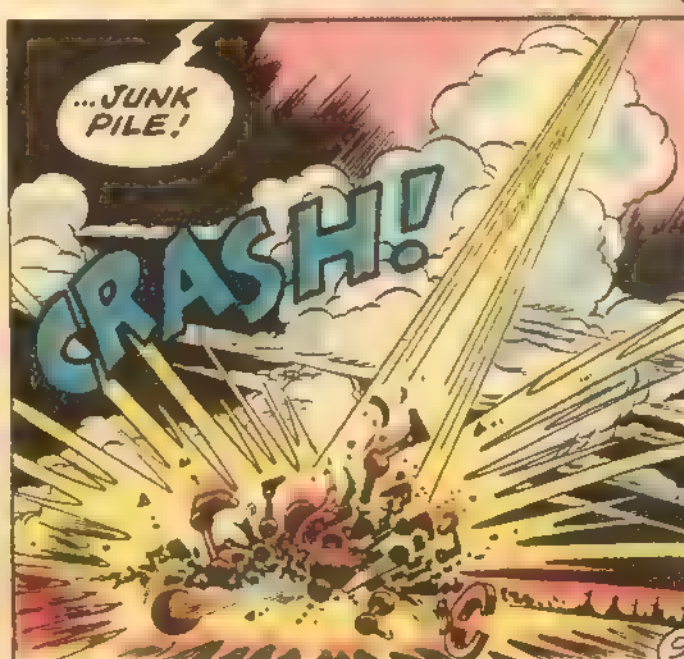
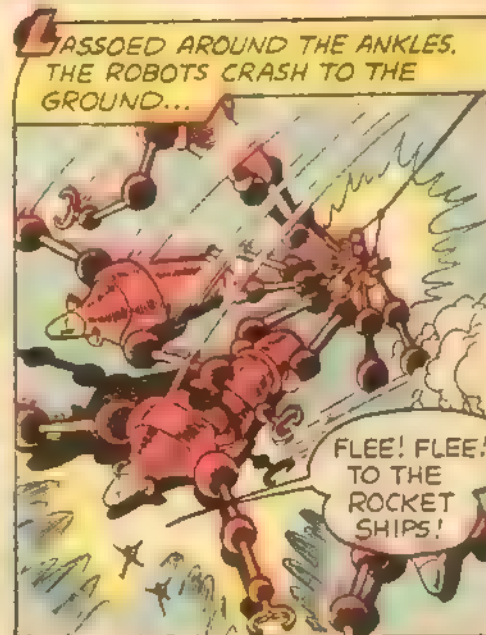
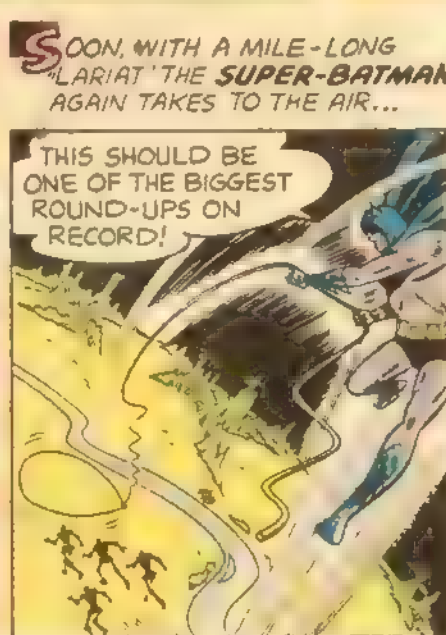
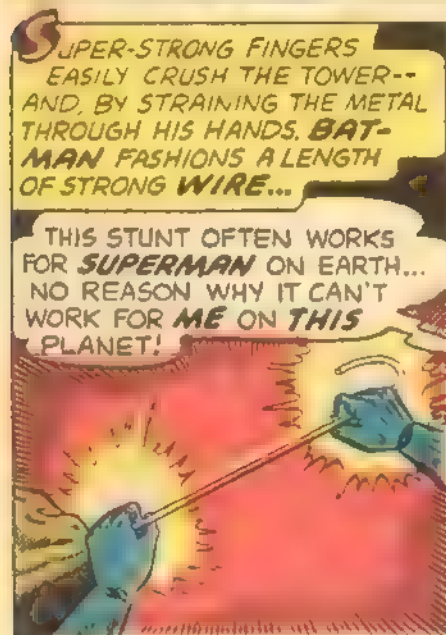
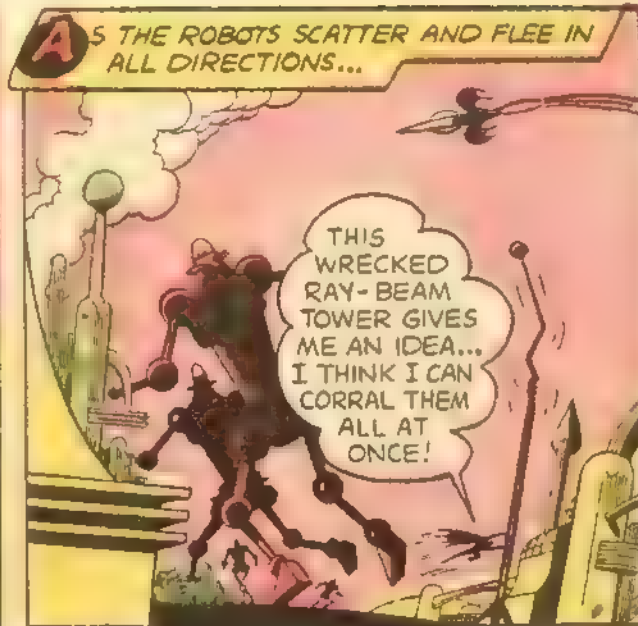
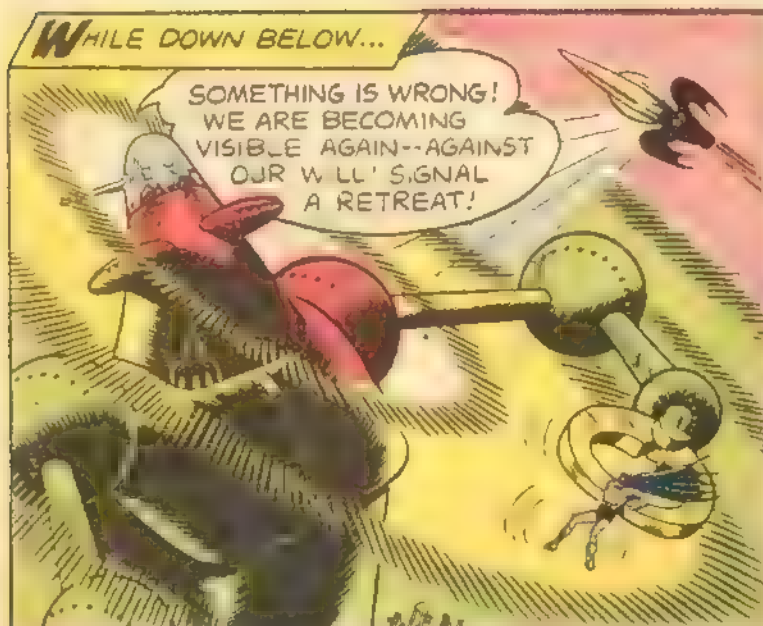
MINUTES LATER, THE BAT-JET ROARS AWAY...

I THINK I KNOW THE ANSWER TO HOW THE INVADERS BECOME INVISIBLE! AND I HAD BETTER BE RIGHT-- THERE IS SO LITTLE TIME!

SHORTLY, OVER THE CITY...

THE BAT-RADIA IS TURNED ON... THE ELECTRONIC MOLECULES ARE STREAMING FOURTH! THE ATMOSPHERE WILL BE DISTURBED-- THEN I WILL KNOW IF MY THEORY IS RIGHT!

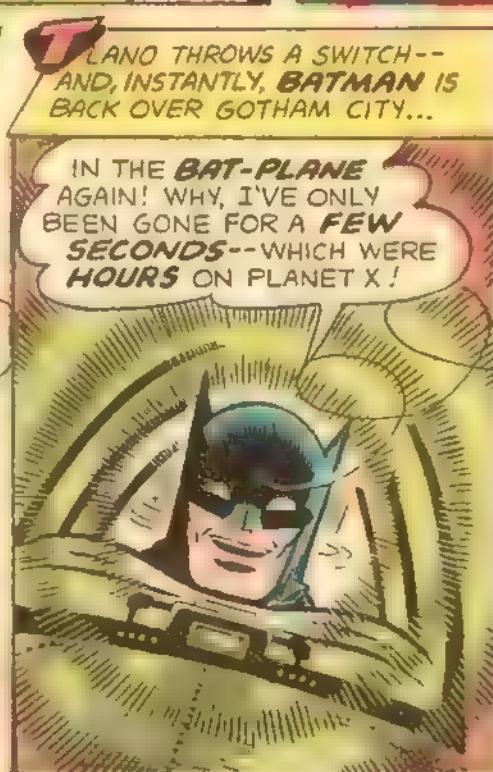
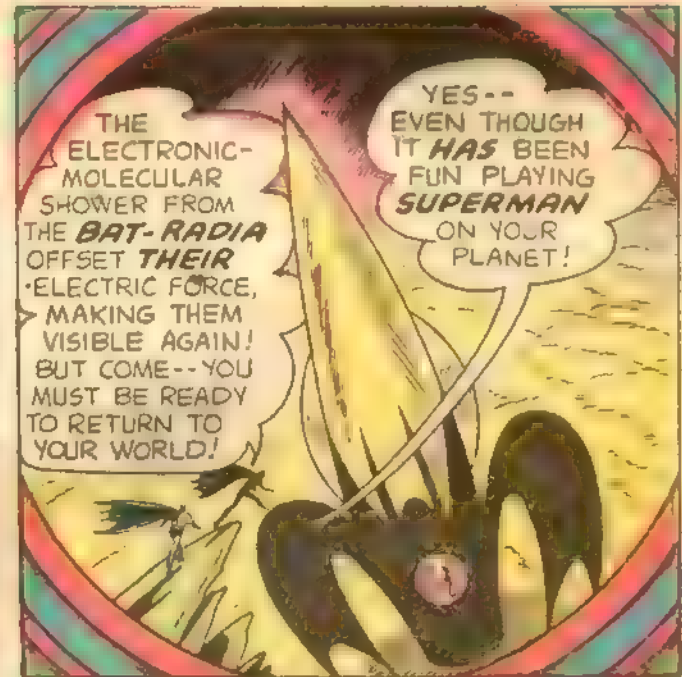
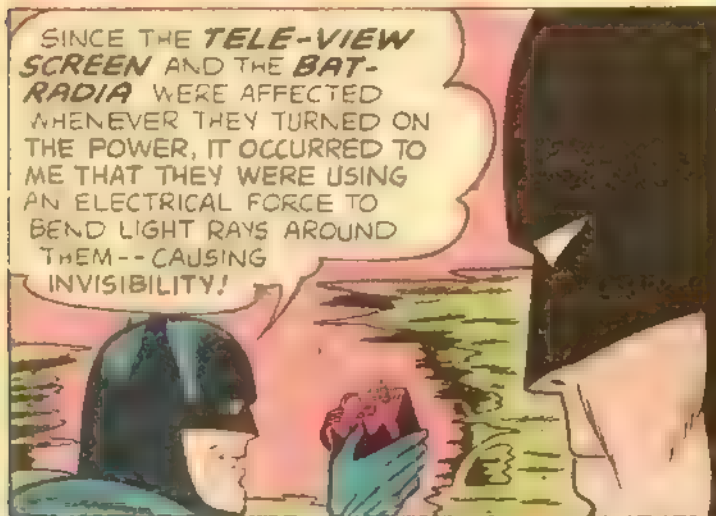
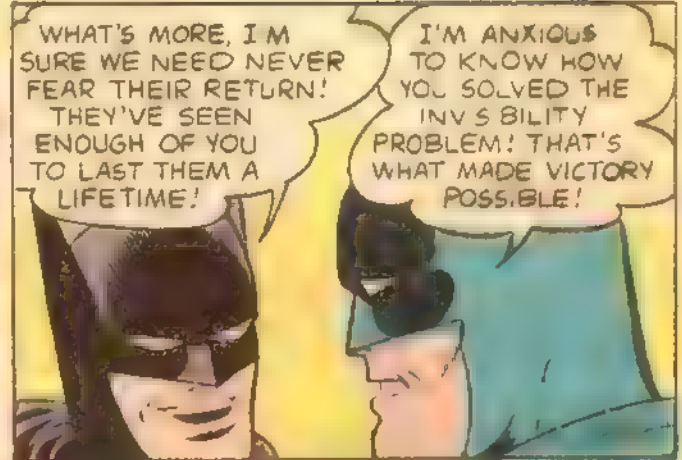
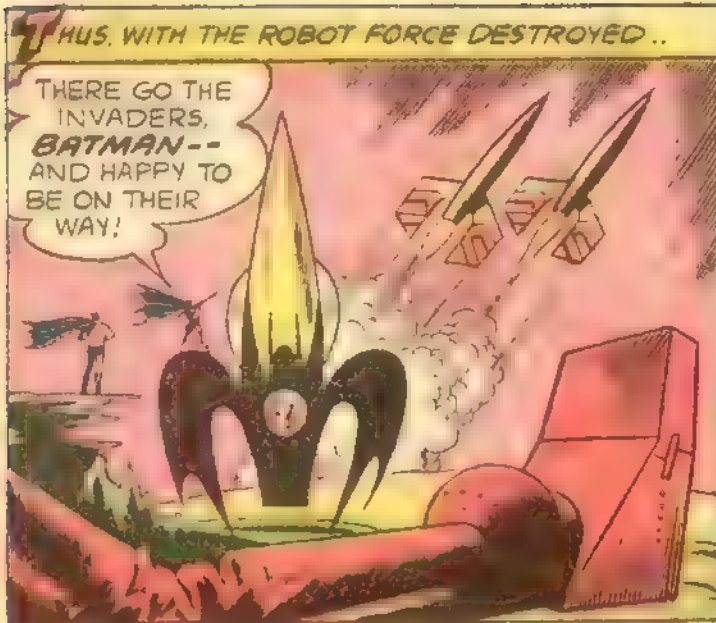








# BATMAN







10¢

MAY NO. 267



# Detective COMICS

GREAT SCOTT,  
BATMAN, SOMEBODY'S  
BEEN PROWLING  
AROUND IN THE  
BAT-CAVE!

SURE, IT'S ME--  
BAT-MITE! I'VE  
COME TO YOUR  
WORLD TO JOIN  
YOUR TEAM!

**"BATMAN  
MEETS  
BAT-MITE!"**





# BAT-MAN

With

ROBIN

IS HE AN ELF?... A GREMLIN?... AN IMP OR A PIXIE? WHY DOES HE CONSTANTLY HARASS BATMAN AND ROBIN IN THEIR EFFORTS TO FIGHT CRIME? YOU'LL LEARN THE STARTLING ANSWERS WHEN YOU SEE HOW...

## BATMAN MEETS BAT-MITE

THOSE CROOKS ARE GIVING **BATMAN** QUITE A BATTLE, EH, **ROBIN**?

YES, **BAT-MITE**... AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!

BOB KANE

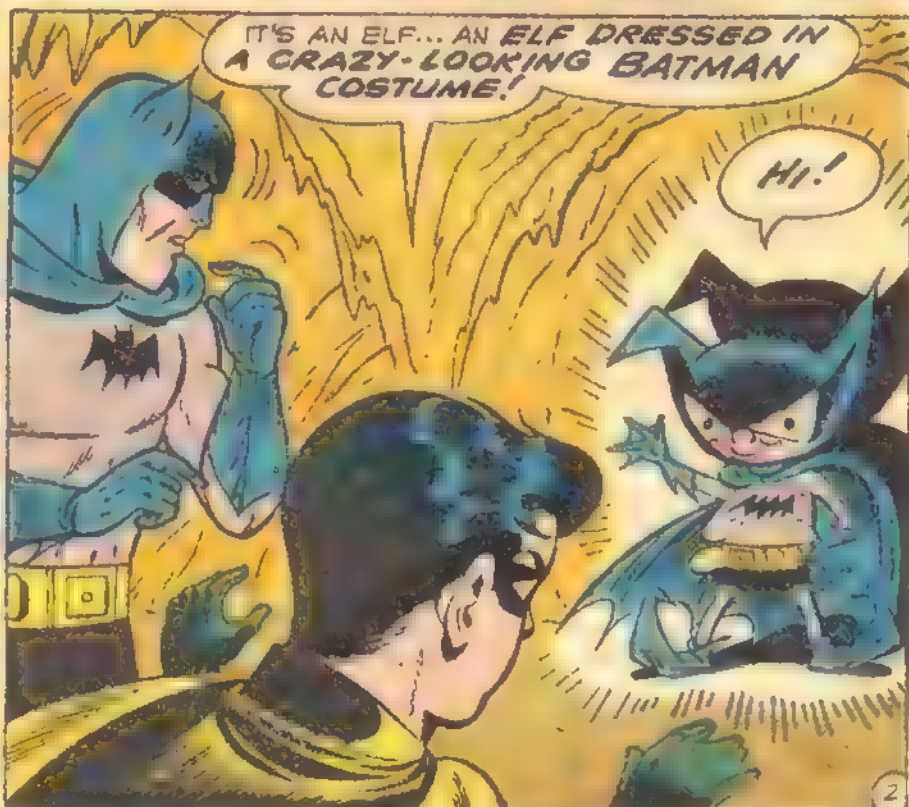
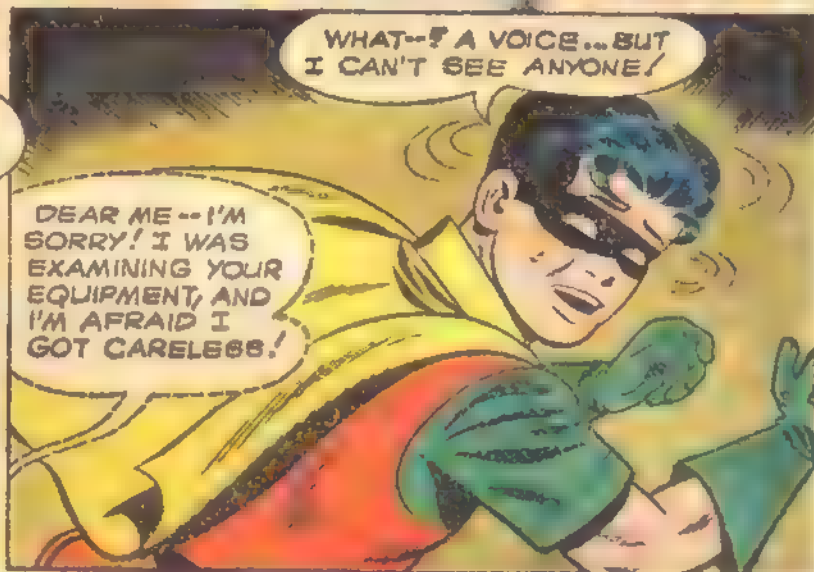
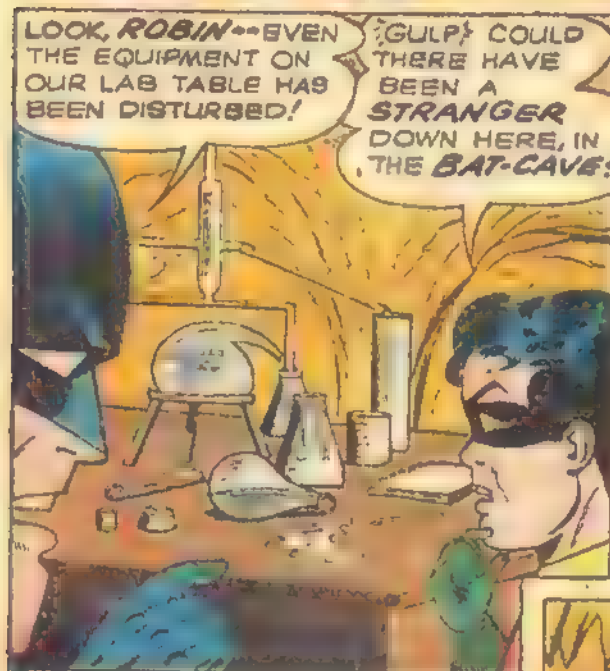
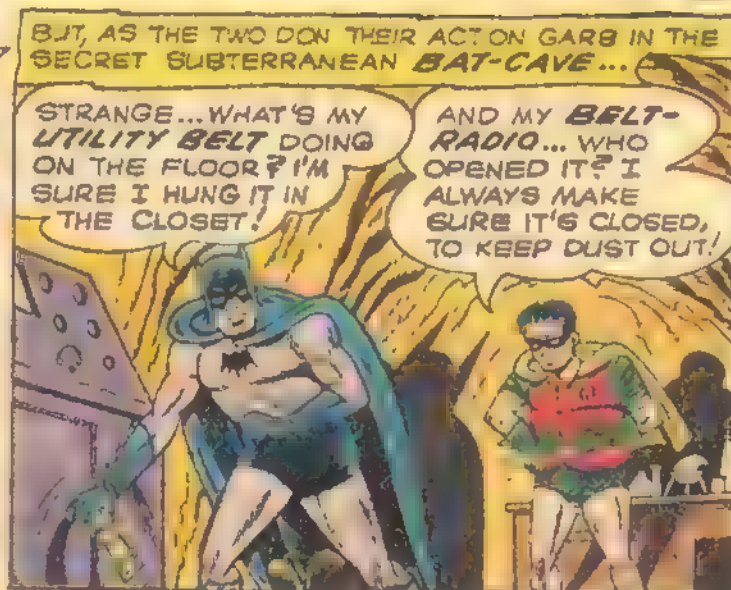
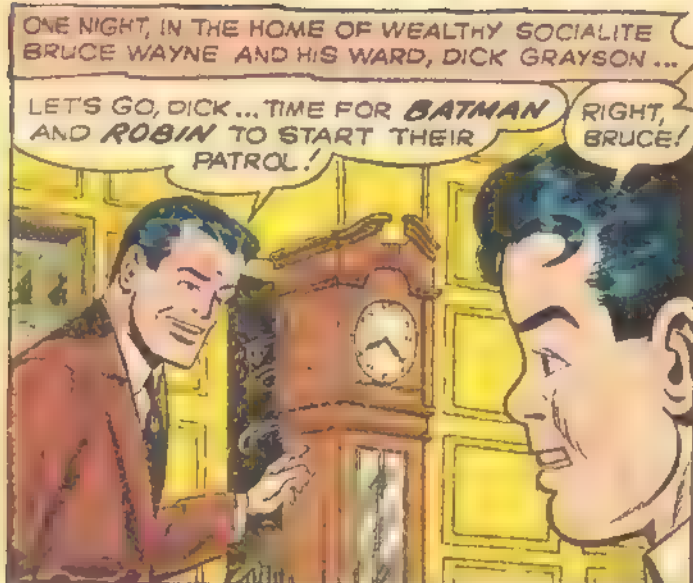
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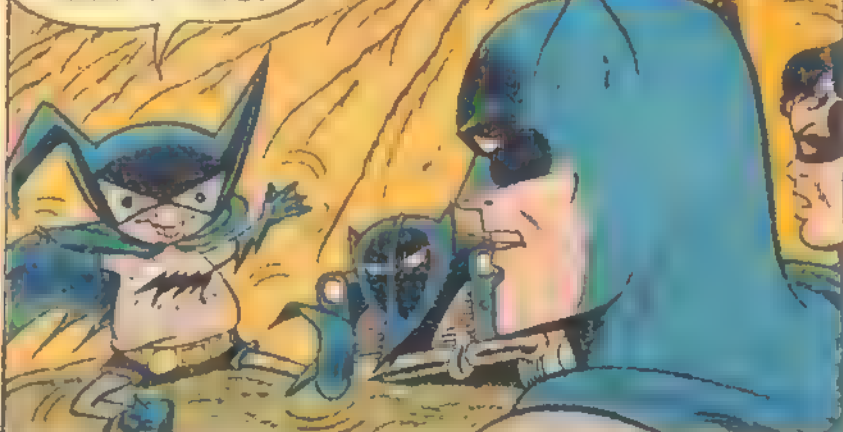




I'M NOT AN ELF! I COME FROM **ANOTHER DIMENSION**, WHERE ALL MEN ARE MY SIZE! **BATMAN**, I'VE OBSERVED AND ADMIRERD YOUR EXPLOITS FOR YEARS-- SO I DECIDED TO HELP YOU FIGHT CRIME WITH MY LINEARTLY POWERS! WON'T THAT BE **FUN?**



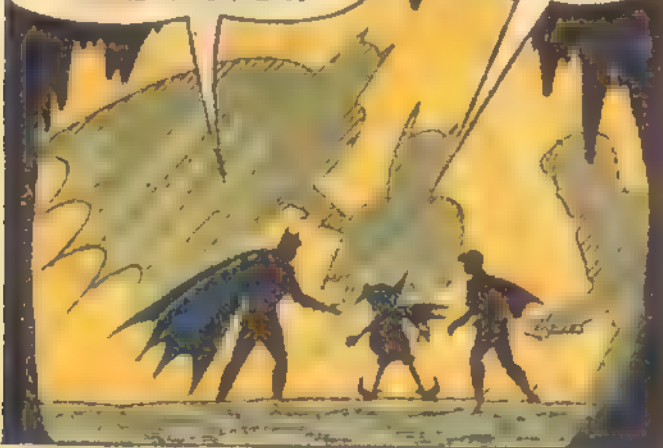
I MADE MYSELF A COSTUME--AND I'M CALLING MYSELF **BAT-MITE!** OH BOY, WILL WE HAVE FUN! **BATMAN, ROBIN... AND BAT-MITE!** WHAT A TRIO!



YOU-- A CREATURE FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION-- WANT TO WORK WITH US? B-BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

WE'D HAVE A HARD TIME EXPLAINING YOUR PRESENCE TO PEOPLE... YOU'D ONLY BE IN THE WAY! BESIDES, IT TAKES A LOT OF TRAINING TO BECOME A CRIME-FIGHTER!

OH, THIS IS VERY DISAPPOINTING! IN THAT CASE, I'D BETTER LEAVE...



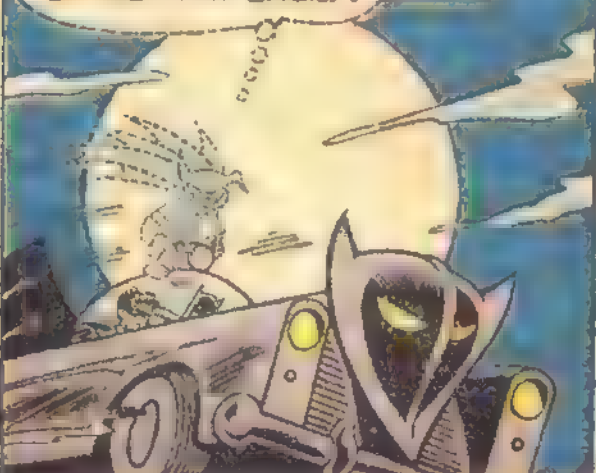
HE'S DISAPPEARED-- GONE BACK TO HIS OWN DIMENSION!

CUTE LITTLE FELLOW... I HATED TO HURT HIS FEELINGS-- BUT WE CERTAINLY COULDN'T HAVE HIM AROUND!



LITTLE DO **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** REALIZE, AS THEY TAKE OFF IN THE **BATMOBILE**, THAT AN INVISIBLE FIGURE RIDES ALONG WITH THEM!

{HA, HA! THEY DON'T GET RID OF ME THAT EASILY!



SHORTLY, AT THE WATERFRONT...

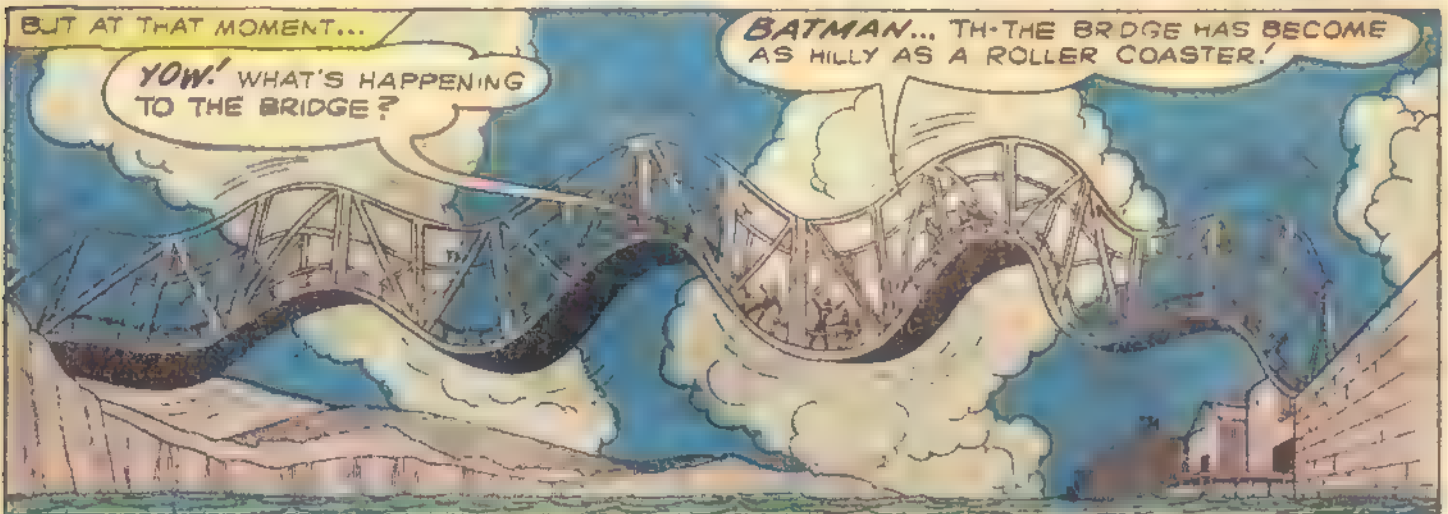
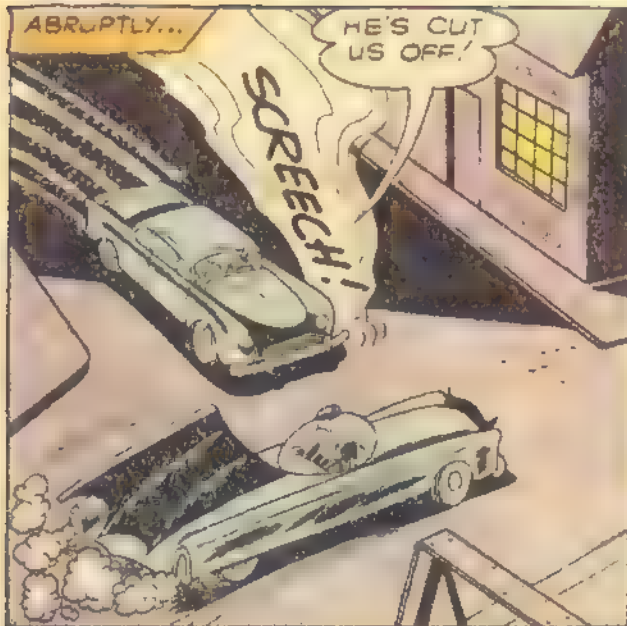
LOOK! TIPPER NEELY AND HIS GANG-- RUNNING TO A GETAWAY CAR!

WE'VE BEEN AFTER THEM FOR MONTHS! GET SET FOR SOME ACTION, **ROBIN!**

IT'S **BATMAN!**





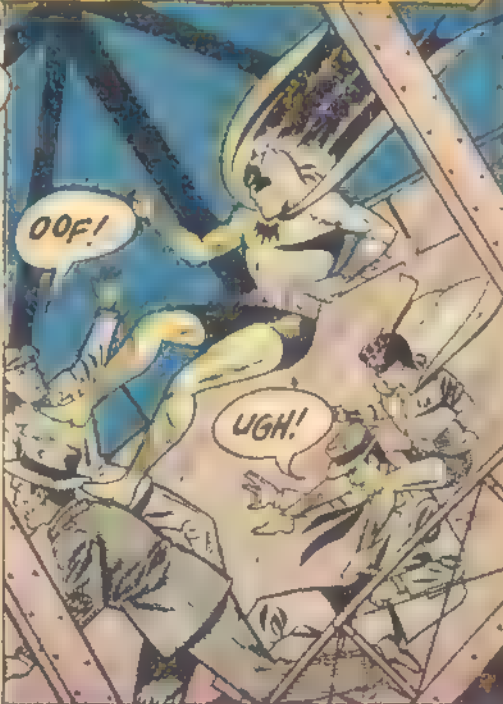


TO THE QUICK-THINKING **BATMAN**, THERE IS ONLY ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER...

**BAT-MITE!** REMEMBER HE SAID HE HAS STRANGE POWERS? HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS! BUT-- BUT WHY?



DOWN THE STEEP DIP SLIDE THE CRIME-FIGHTERS, FULL FORCE INTO THE BEWILDERED THUGS...

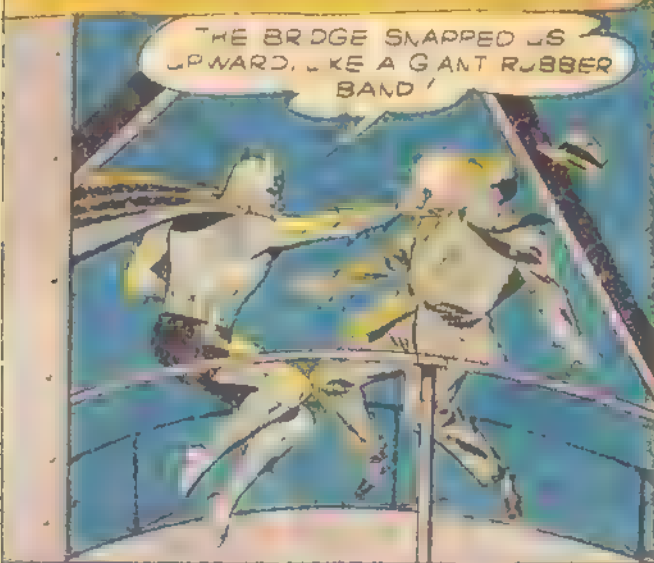


MEASURING THE GANG CHIEF FOR A BLOW, **BATMAN** SWINGS



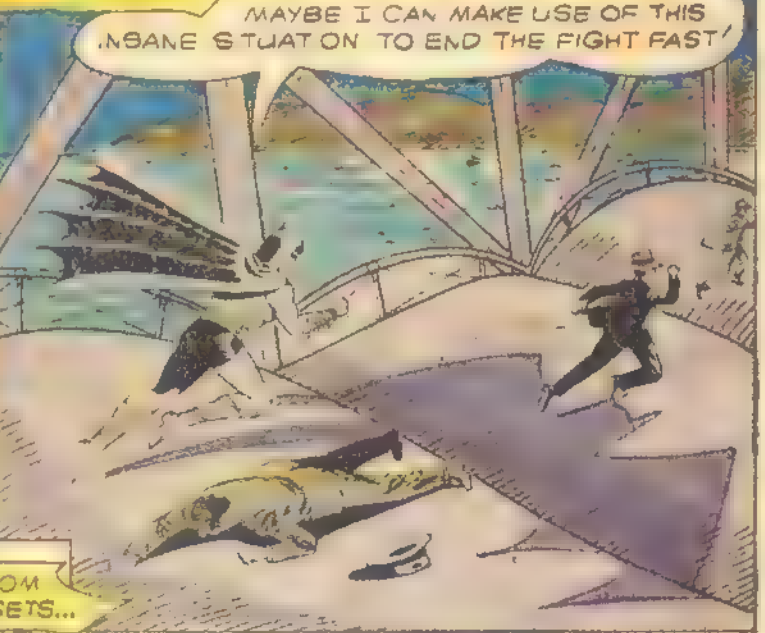


ONLY TO COMPLETE HIS PLANCH MID-AIR!



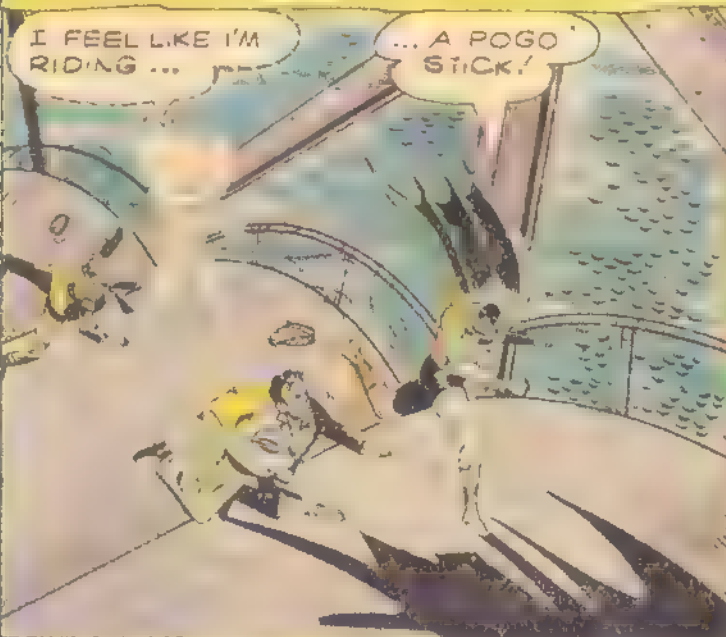
THE BRIDGE SNAPPED US UPWARD, LIKE A GANT RUBBER BAND!

AND AS THE PAIR RETURNS TO THE RUBBERY STRUCTURE...



MAYBE I CAN MAKE USE OF THIS INSANE SITUATION TO END THE FIGHT FAST!

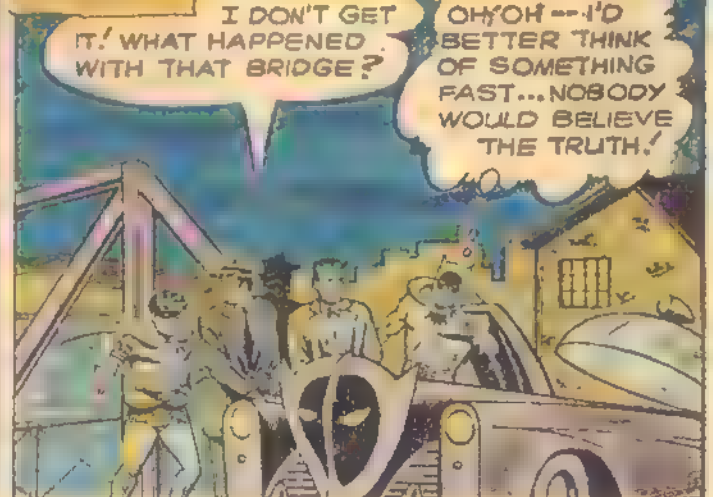
LIKE A TENNIS BALL, **BATMAN** BOUNCES FROM HILL TO HILL -- HIS JUTTING FIST FINDING TARGETS...



I FEEL LIKE I'M RIDING ...

... A POGO STICK!

WITH THE CAPTURE OF THE BANDITS, THE BRIDGE RETURNS TO ITS NORMAL STATE, PRESENTING **BATMAN** WITH STILL ANOTHER PROBLEM...



I DON'T GET IT! WHAT HAPPENED WITH THAT BRIDGE?

OH YOH -- I'D BETTER THINK OF SOMETHING FAST... NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE THE TRUTH!

ER -- THAT CHEMICAL PLANT... IT EMPTIES ITS WASTES INTO THE RIVER! THEY -- UH -- MIGHT HAVE CAUSED A CHEMICAL REACTION WITH THE WATER -- EMITTING A GAS THAT GAVE US HALLUCINATIONS!



YEAH -- I GUESS THE GAS MADE US SEE THINGS!

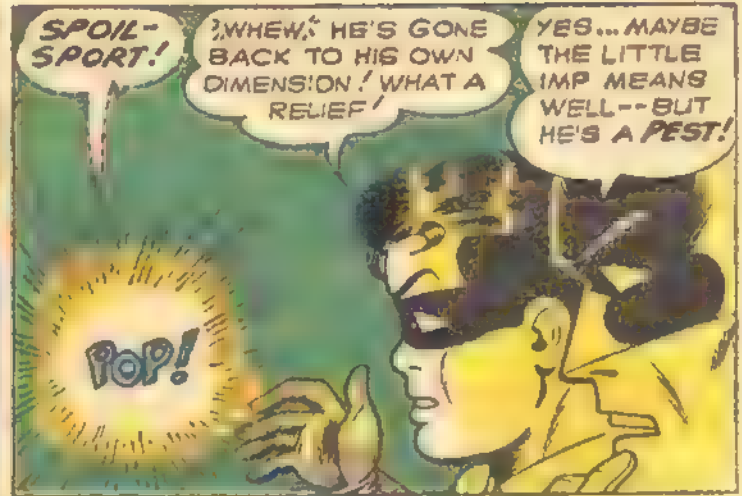
NOT UNTIL THE CRIME-FIGHTERS ARRIVE HOME DOES **BAT-MITE** RETURN TO VISIBILITY...



YOU? I OUGHT TO SPANK YOU! WHAT WAS THE IDEA OF THAT STUNT?

GOSH, **BATMAN**, YOU WENT AFTER THOSE CROOKS SO QUICKLY, I HARDLY GOT TO SEE YOU IN ACTION -- SO I PROLONGED THE FIGHT A LITTLE! I JUST WANTED TO HAVE SOME FUN!





IN THE *BAT-CAVE'S* TROPHY ROOM, HOWEVER, AS SOON AS *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* DEPART,

NOT TILL THE FOLLOWING EVENING DOES *BAT-MITE* GET HIS WISH...

I'LL BECOME INVISIBLE AGAIN, BEFORE THEY RETURN TOMORROW! I CAN HARDLY WAIT... BOY-OH-BOY, WILL I HAVE FUN!



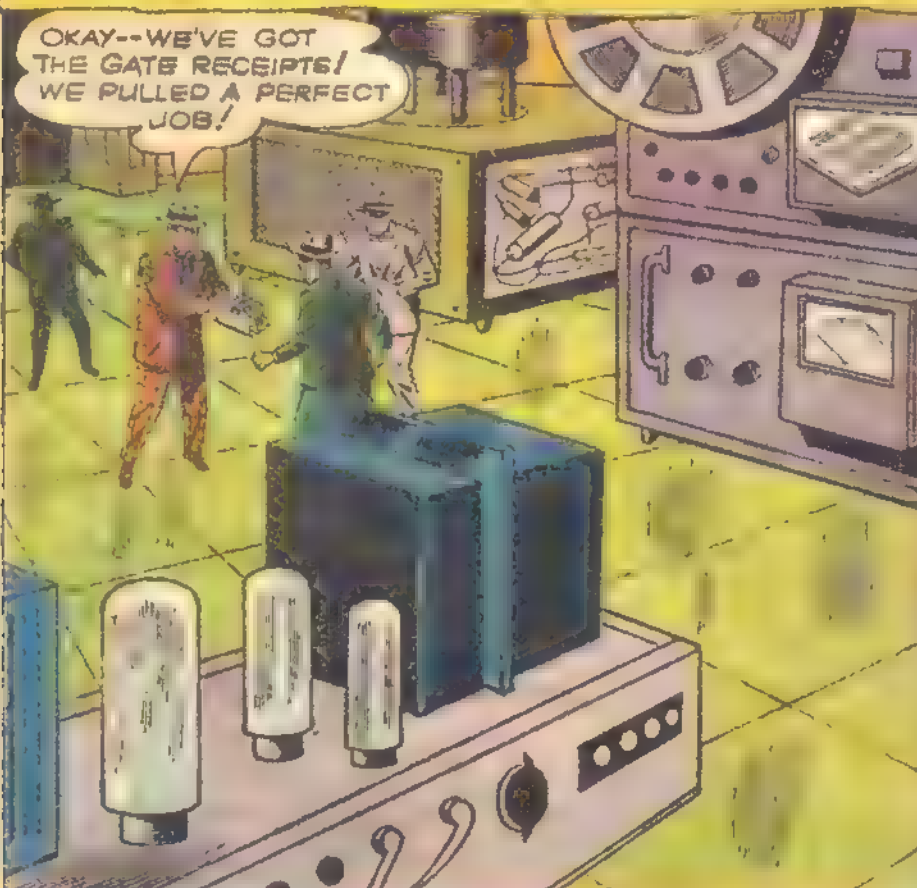
LOOK... THE *BAT-SIGNAL* IS FLASHING ON OUR TELE-SCREEN!

POLICE HEADQUARTERS HAS A JOB FOR US! LET'S GO!

**YAHOO!** HERE'S WHERE THE FUN BEGINS!



MEANWHILE, AFTER VISITING HOURS, IN AN EXPOSITION HALL HOUSING A *HI-FI SHOW*...



BUT SUDDENLY...

NOT SO PERFECT! YOU TRIPPED A BURGLAR ALARM... HEADQUARTERS SENT US TO ESCORT YOU TO A NICE, CLEAN CELL!

**BATMAN AND ROBIN! RUN, YOU GUYS-- RUN!**





AS THE BANDITS TRY TO SCRAMBLE OVER THE GIANT MODEL OF AN AMPLIFIER...

YOU ALL RIGHT, **ROBIN**?

I'M FINE--BUT I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THESE FELLOWS!

HOLD IT, **BATMAN**-- WE KNOW WHEN WE'RE LICKED!

GEE... AND I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SOME SPECTACULAR ACTION! GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO **CREATE SOME!**

ABRUPTLY, A RECORD COMES FLYING OFF A COLOSSAL PHONOGRAPH MODEL, AND...

HUH--?

GREAT SCOTT!

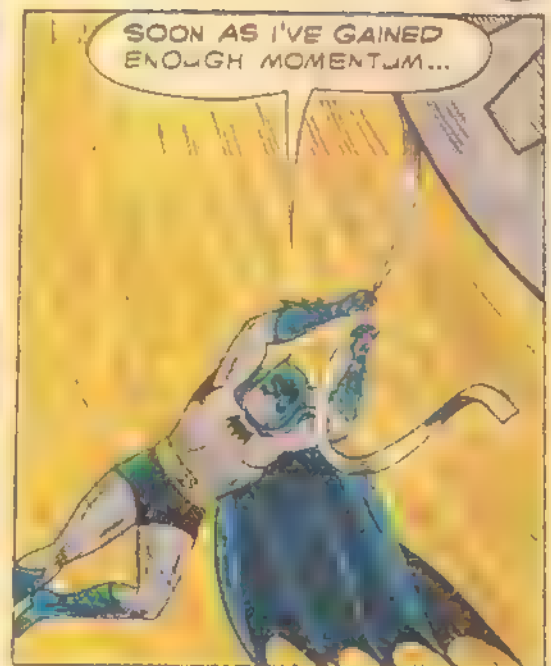
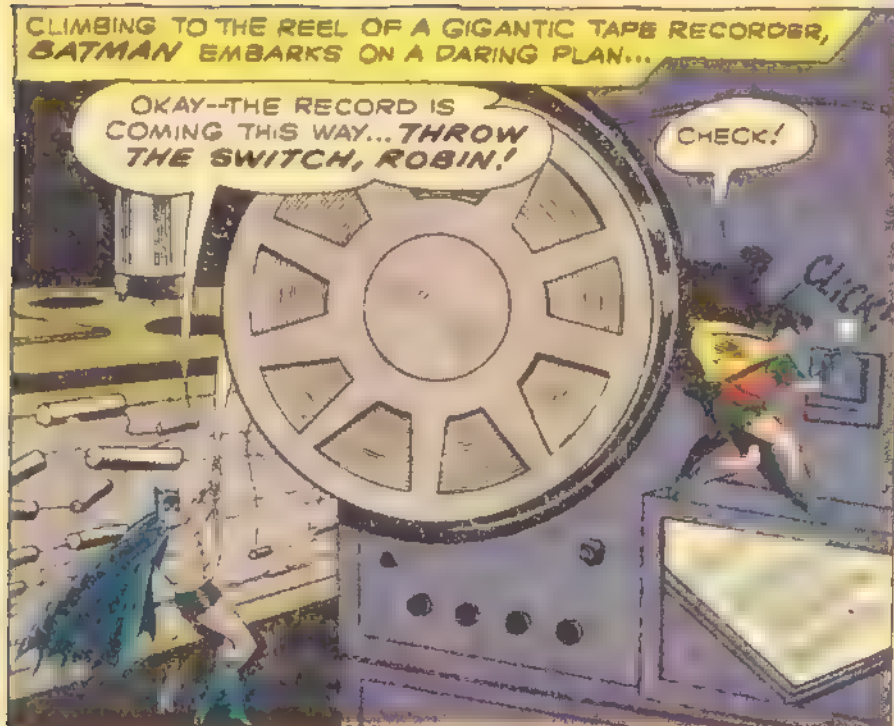
WH-WHERE'D THIS THING COME FROM?

WHO CARES? ALL I KNOW IS IT GOT US AWAY FROM **BATMAN AND ROBIN**... MAYBE IT'LL EVEN FLY US OUTA HERE!

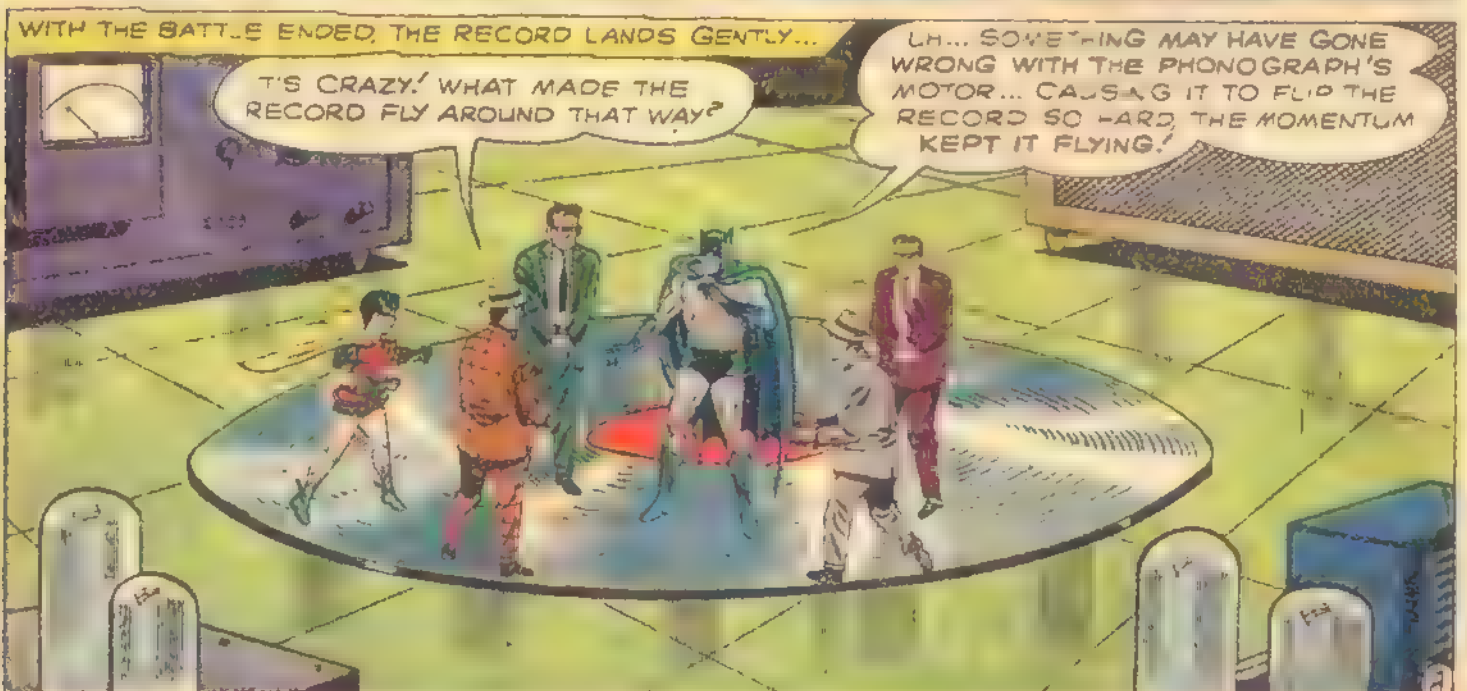
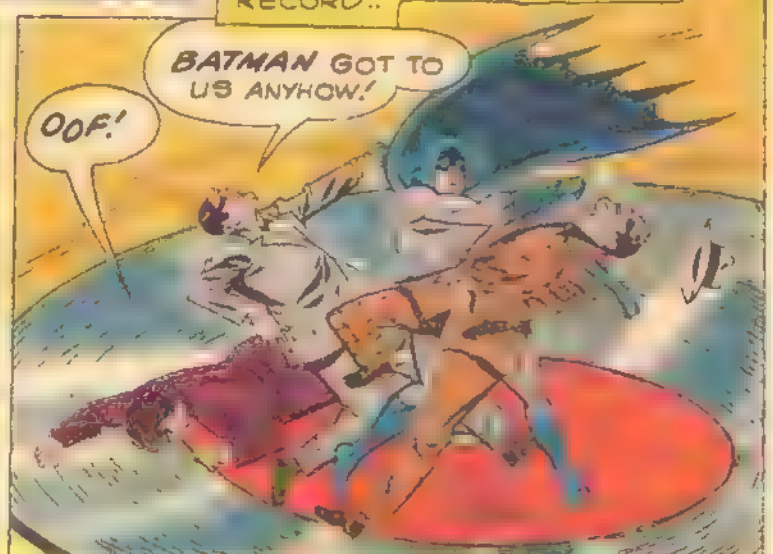
IT'S **BAT-MITE'S** WORK AGAIN... THAT LITTLE IMP!

WE'LL WORRY ABOUT HIM LATER! RIGHT NOW, WE MUST THINK OF A WAY TO GET UP AT THOSE CROOKS!





AS HE LANDS ATOP THE FLYING RECORD...





LATER, UPON RETURNING TO THE **BAT-CAVE**...

LISTEN, YOU LITTLE SCAMP, YOU'VE GOT TO CUT OUT ALL THIS MISCHIEF! YOU HEAR ME?... CUT IT OUT OR I **WILL** SPANK YOU!

AW, GEE, **BATMAN**-- WHERE'S YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR?

FURTHERMORE, I ... HMPH... THERE HE GOES AGAIN!

LET'S HOPE HE STAYS AWAY FOR GOOD 'I'M GETTING A LITTLE TIRED OF HIS IDEA OF "FUN"!

NEXT EVENING...

**ROBIN**, I JUST GOT A TIP THAT THE **YELLOW GLOVES GANG** PLANS TO ROB THE SAFE OF THE **GOTHAM AUTO COMPANY**. I'VE ALREADY WARNED THE MANAGER... HE'S REPLACED THE CASH IN THERE WITH FAKE MONEY!

I SEE... MEANWHILE, WE'LL WAIT THERE IN HIDING TILL AFTER THEY STRIKE -- SO THAT OUR PRESENCE WON'T SCARE THEM OFF!

EXACTLY... AND SINCE THIS EMPTY WAREHOUSE, NEXT DOOR, IS THE SHORTEST ESCAPE ROUTE THAT'S WHERE WE'LL WAIT FOR FOR THEM!

AN **EMPTY** WAREHOUSE? NO OBJECTS FOR SPECTACULAR ACTION? I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT!

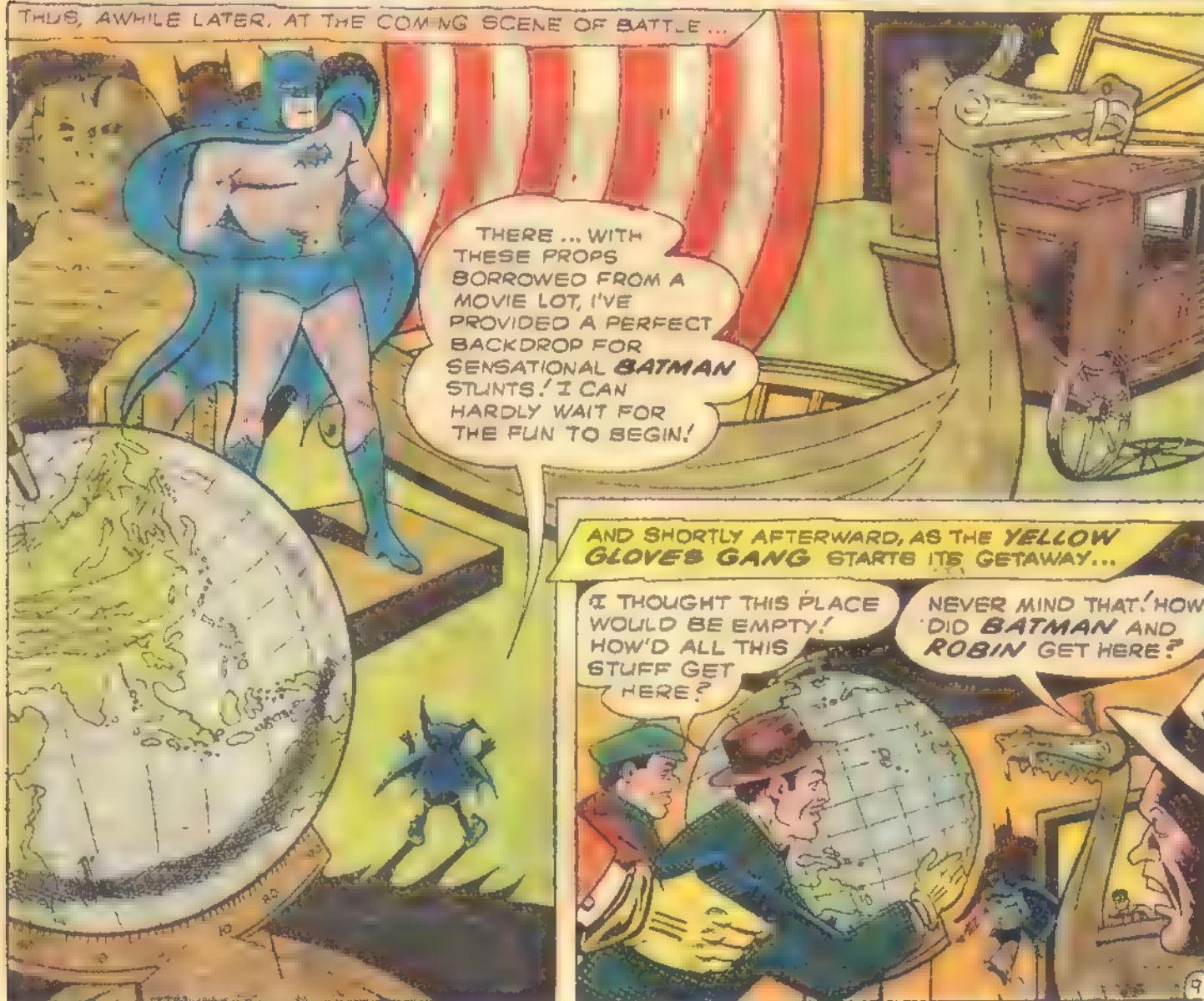
THUS, AWHILE LATER, AT THE COMING SCENE OF BATTLE...

THERE... WITH THESE PROPS BORROWED FROM A MOVIE LOT, I'VE PROVIDED A PERFECT BACKDROP FOR SENSATIONAL **BATMAN** STUNTS! I CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR THE FUN TO BEGIN!

AND SHORTLY AFTERWARD, AS THE **YELLOW GLOVES GANG** STARTS ITS GETAWAY...

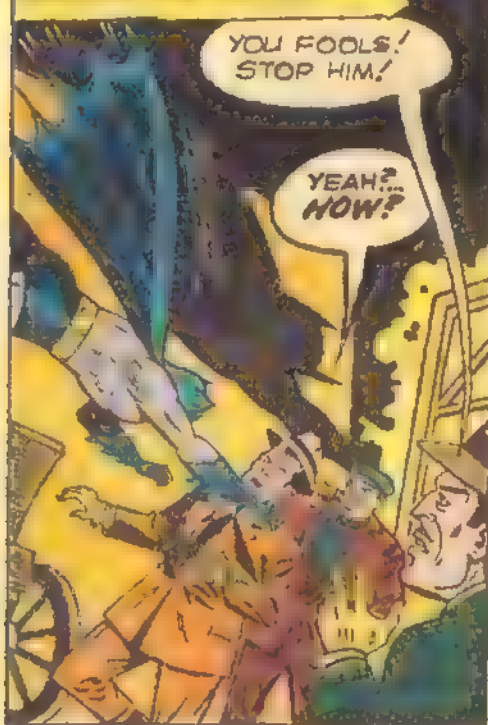
I THOUGHT THIS PLACE WOULD BE EMPTY! HOW'D ALL THIS STUFF GET HERE?

NEVER MIND THAT! HOW DID **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** GET HERE?





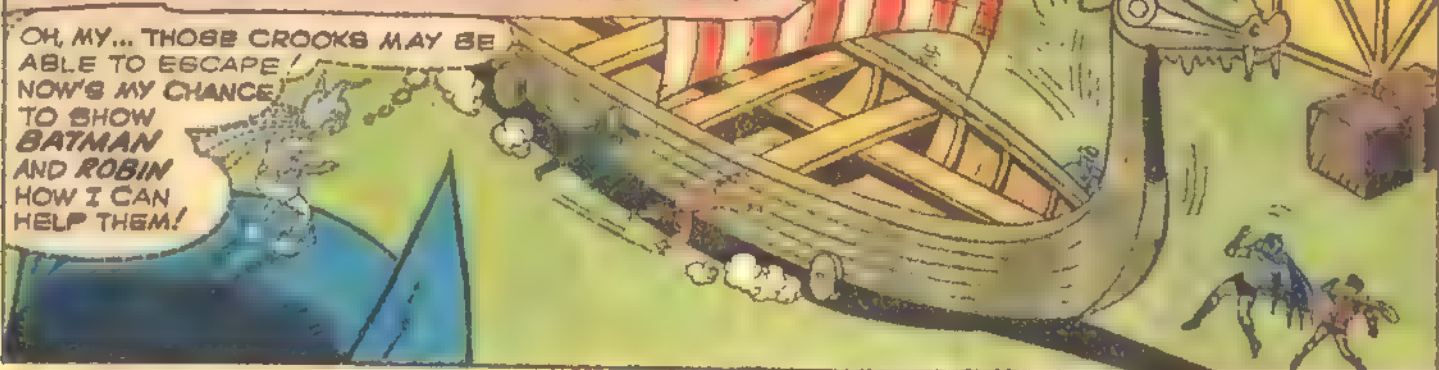
DEFTLY, THE DYNAMIC DUO  
SWINGS INTO ACTION...



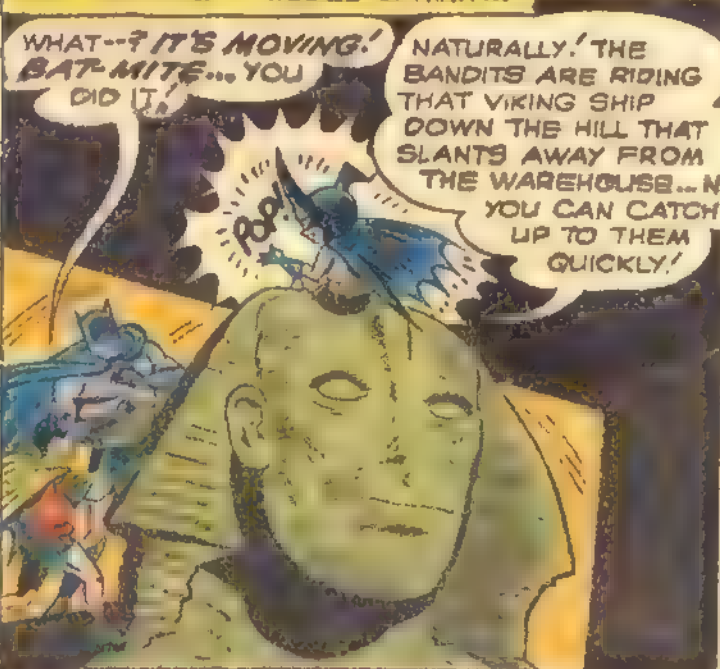
MAYBE WITH A TRIP  
AROUND THE WORLD!



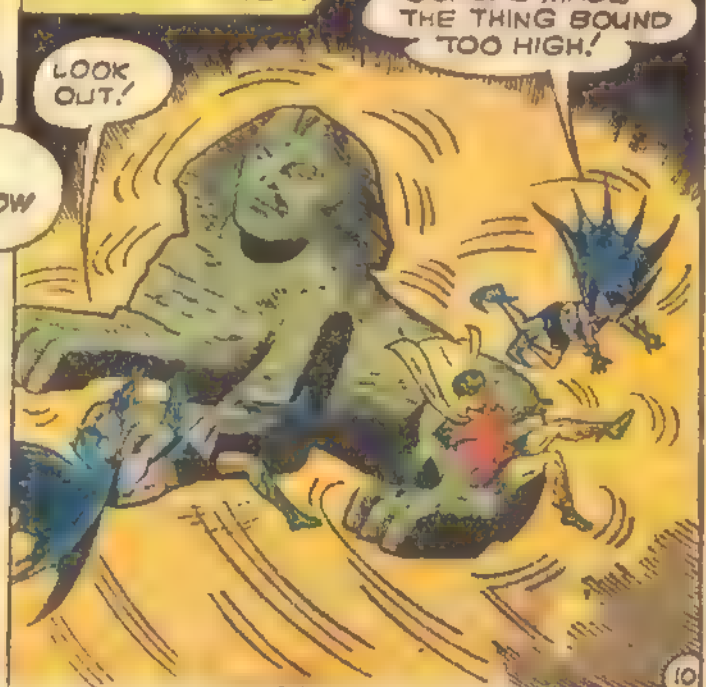
BUT A MOMENT LATER, AS THE DESPERATE BANDITS  
PUSH A DRAGON-SHIP INTO THE CRIME-BUSTERS...



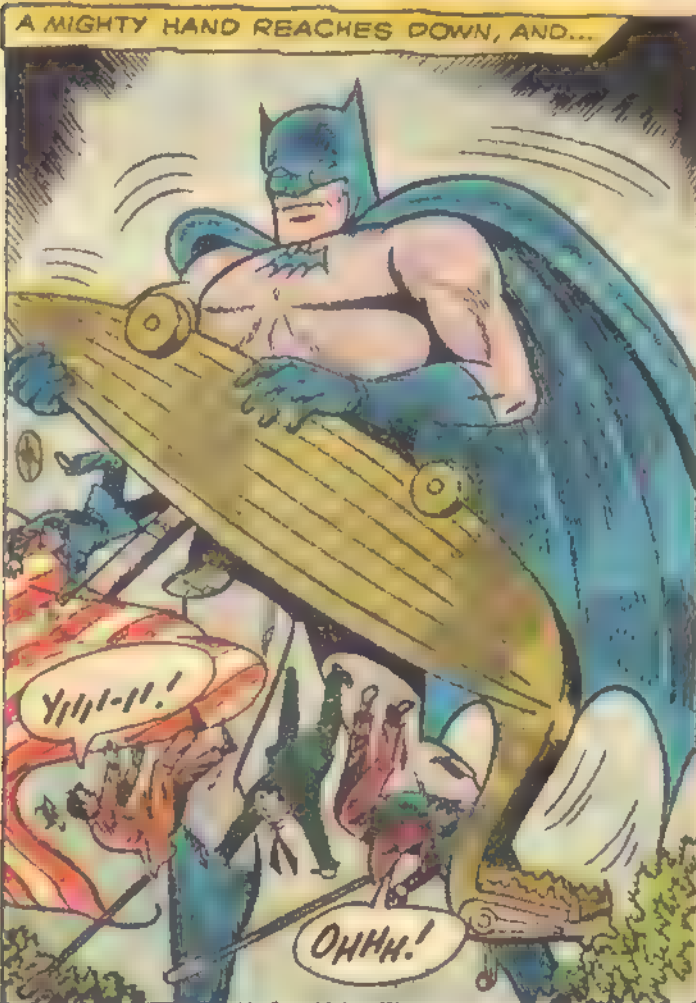
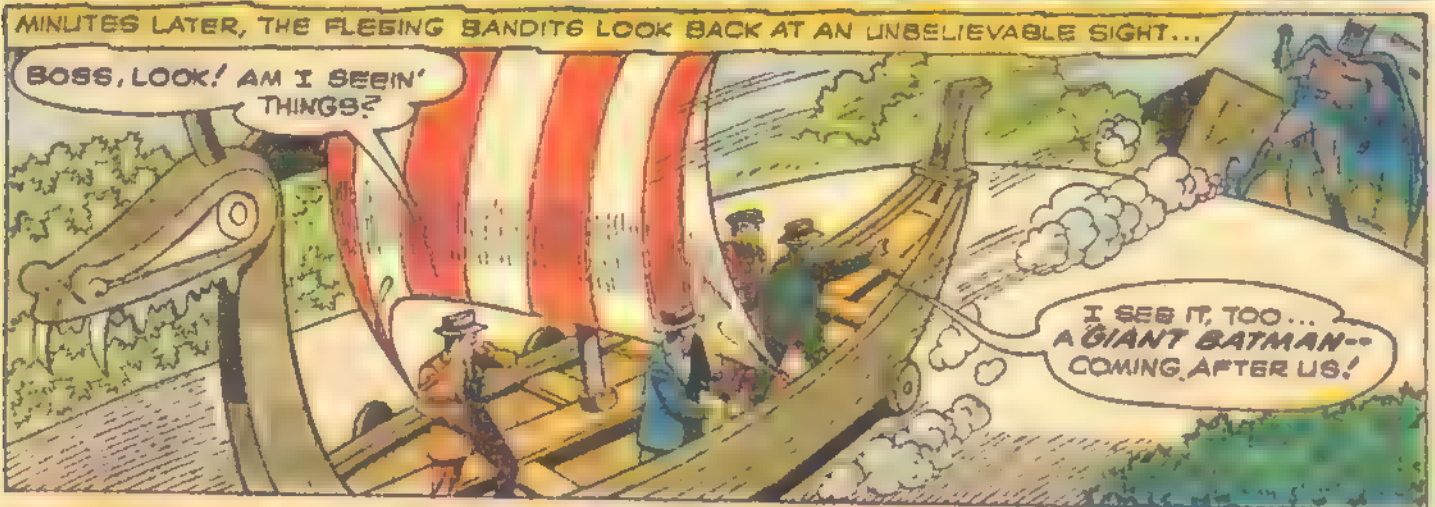
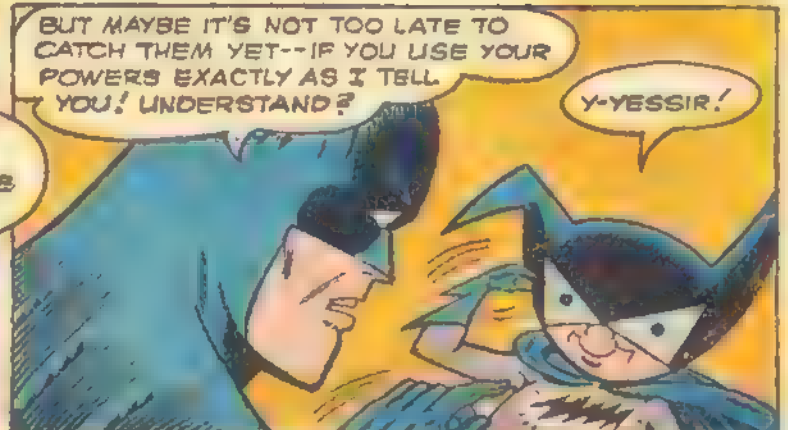
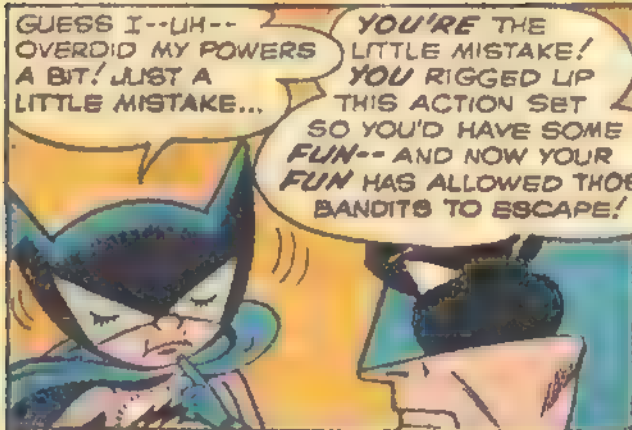
NEXT INSTANT, AS AN UNSEEN FORCE WHISKS THE  
PAIR ASTRIDE A MODEL SPHINX...



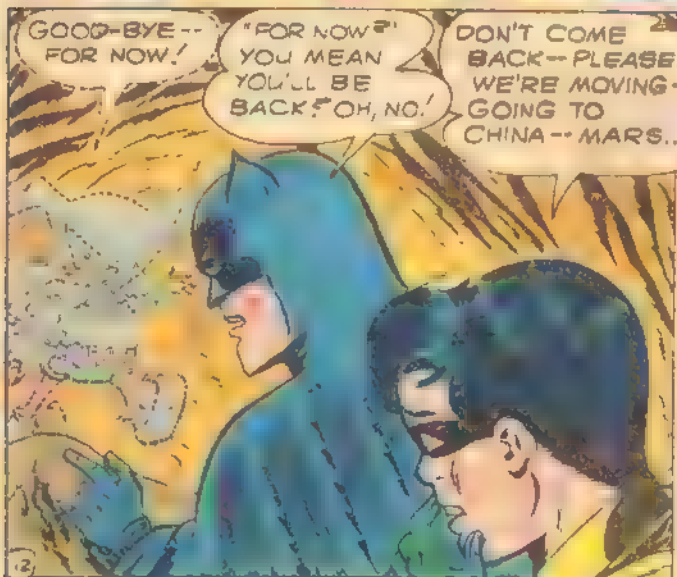
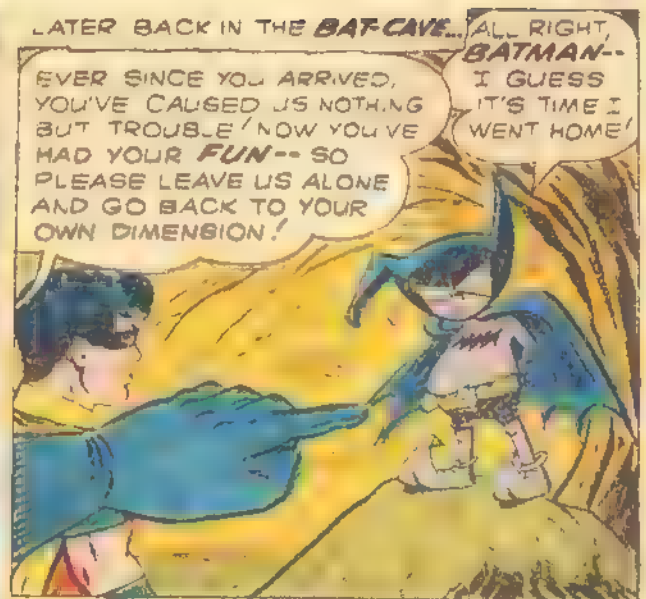
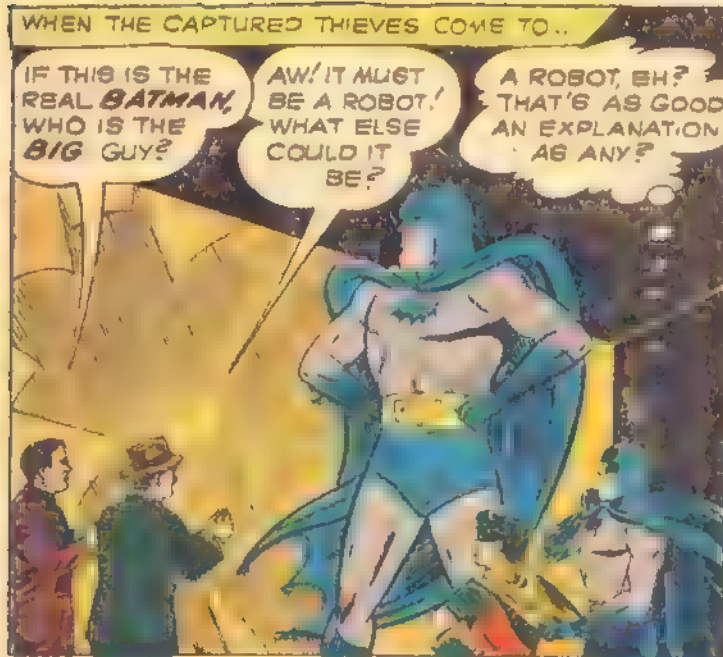
BUT ALL AT ONCE...











ADVERTISEMENT

A great circus clown they call Andy,  
Whose antics are sure fun and dandy,  
Said, "The smile that you see  
Is not painted on me—  
It's because I eat **Tootsie Roll** candy!"







10¢

SEPT.  
NO. 134

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COMICS  
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AUTHORITY

# BATMAN

## *The RAINBOW CREATURE!*

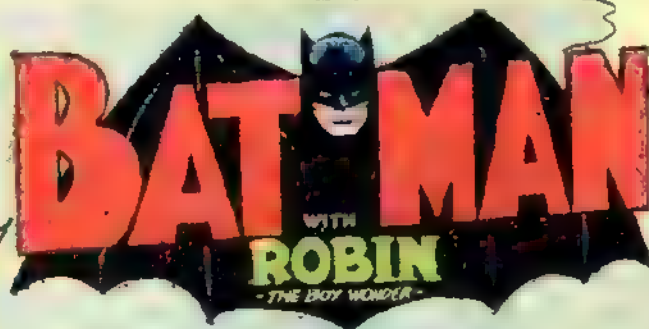
THAT GREEN AURA FROM  
THE RAINBOW CREATURE  
HAS TURNED US INTO  
*TWO-DIMENSIONAL*  
PEOPLE!





IT STALKED ACROSS A HELPLESS LAND--A FANTASTIC THING POSSESSING UNEARTHLY POWERS! LIKE A LIVING RAINBOW, ITS COLORS GLOWED EVILLY, SHEDDING THE LIGHT OF DESTRUCTION IN ITS PATH! ONLY THE GALLANT BATMAN AND ROBIN DARED DEFY IT... ONLY THEY DARED HOPE THEY COULD HALT THE ONWARD MARCH OF...

# the RAINBOW CREATURE



GREAT SCOTT!... THE RAINBOW BEAST HAS TURNED THE HAND-CAR INTO A MIST!

HA, HA! NONE CAN WITHSTAND THE POWERS OF MY RAINBOW BEAST!



BOB KANE

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# BATMAN



IN A SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLIC, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE HONORED GUESTS OF ITS BELOVED PRESIDENT...

THANKS TO YOUR HELP, THE REBEL, DIAZ, AND THE REMNANTS OF HIS ARMY ARE DEFEATED AND HIDING IN THE HILLS!

DIAZ IS NOTHING BUT A GANGSTER, A WOULD-BE DICTATOR! YOUR PEOPLE ARE WELL RID OF HIM!

JUST THEN...

EL PRESIDENTE! A BEAST WALKS OUR LAND!

A WHAT?

A BEAST OF COLORS--LIKE A RAINBOW...IT CAME FROM THE HILLS--NEAR THE FIERY VOLCANO--WHERE DIAZ AND HIS ARMY ARE HIDING!

SO?... I WILL SUMMON SOME SOLDIERS AND GO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS "BEAST" YOU SPEAK OF!

UPON REACHING THE SCENE...

MADRE DIOS! THERE IS INDEED A BEAST--COLORED LIKE A RAINBOW!

IT'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THAT BUILDING--AND LOOK!... ITS RED STRIPE IS BEGINNING TO GLOW!

GOLLY!... WHAT HEAT! IT'S BURNING ITS WAY RIGHT THROUGH THE BUILDING!



A MOMENT LATER, WHEN THE BEAST EMERGES...

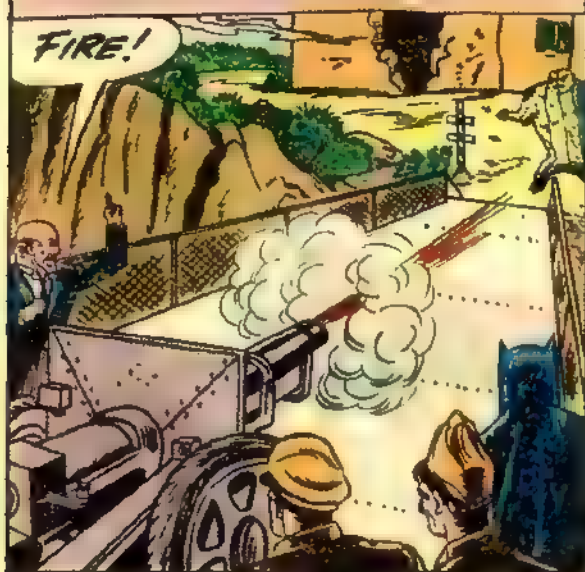
IT'S NO LONGER RADIATING HEAT...  
AND THE RED COLOR IS GONE  
FROM ITS BODY, TOO!

IT SEES US! MEN--  
GET BACK! BRING  
UP THE SMALL  
ARTILLERY!



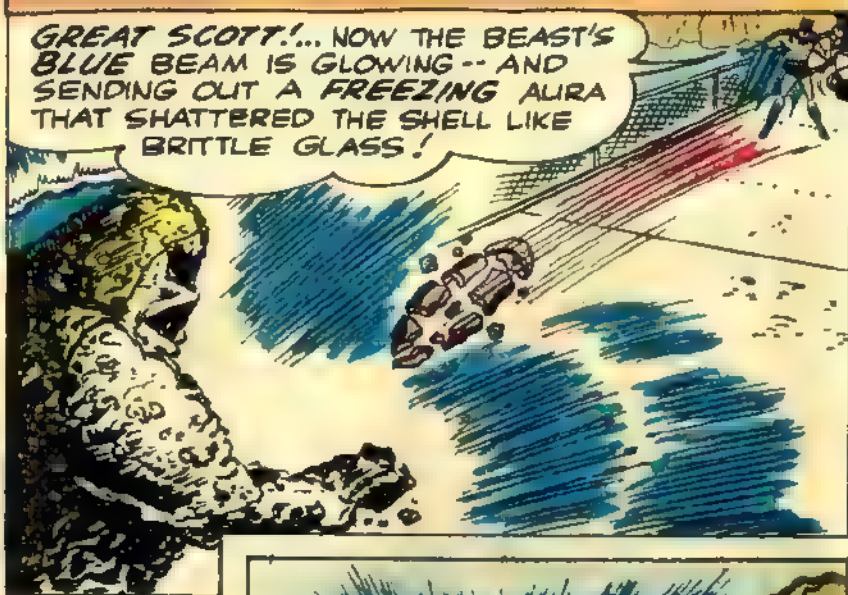
AND AS THE FANTASTIC CREATURE  
LUMBERS WITHIN RANGE...

FIRE!

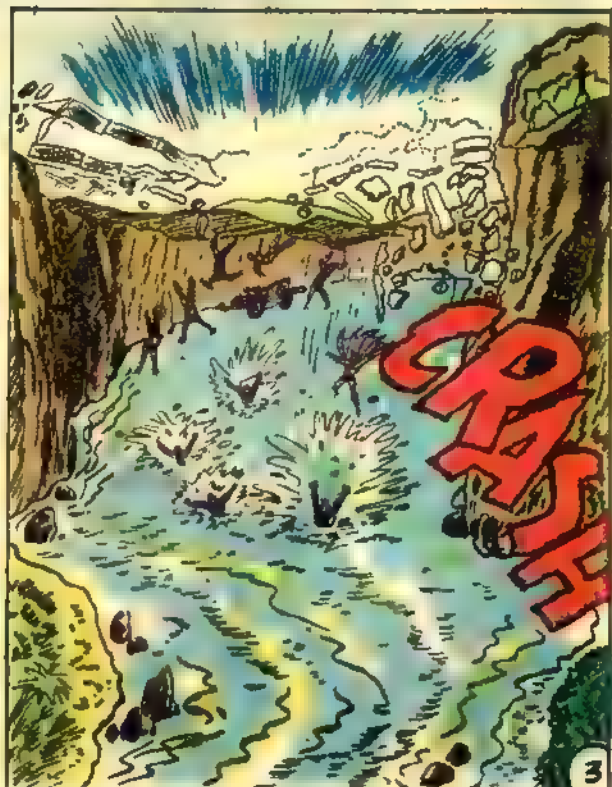
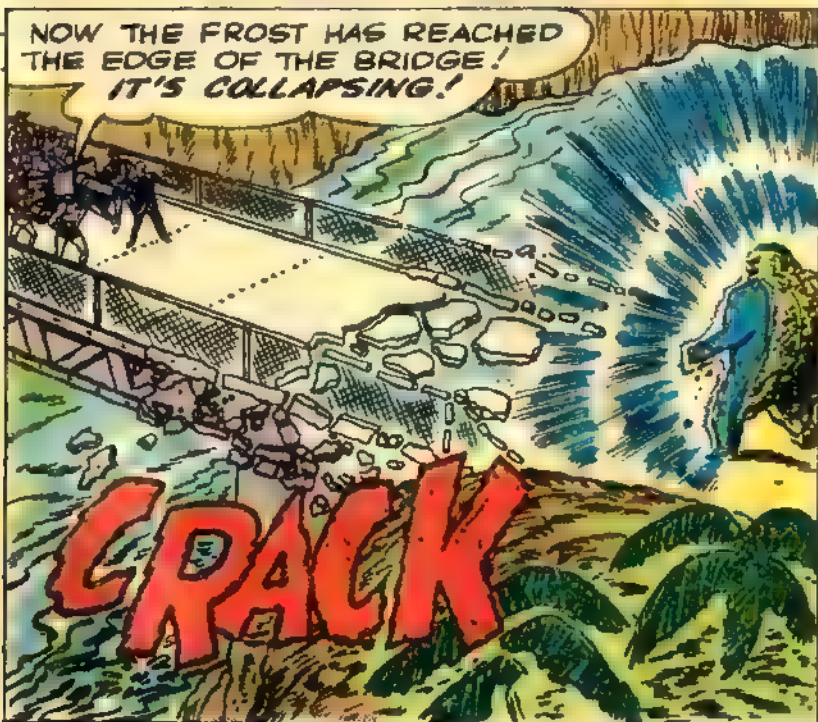


BUT BEFORE THE SHELL CAN REACH ITS TARGET...

GREAT SCOTT!... NOW THE BEAST'S  
BLUE BEAM IS GLOWING-- AND  
SENDING OUT A FREEZING AURA  
THAT SHATTERED THE SHELL LIKE  
BRITTLE GLASS!



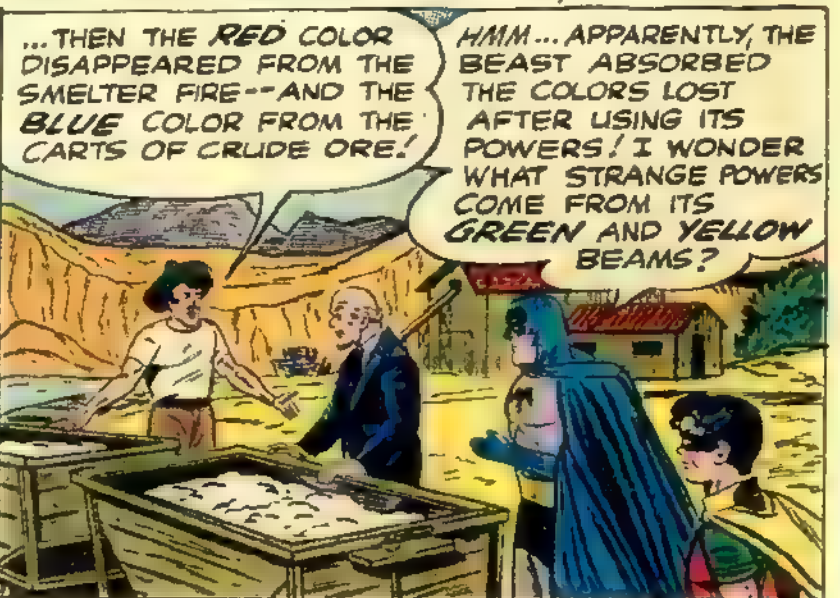
NOW THE FROST HAS REACHED  
THE EDGE OF THE BRIDGE!  
IT'S COLLAPSING!



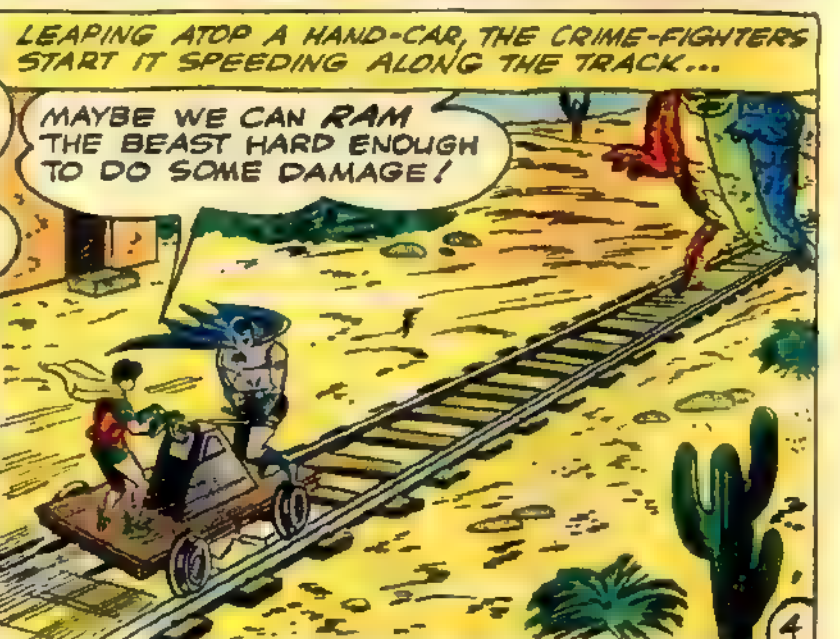
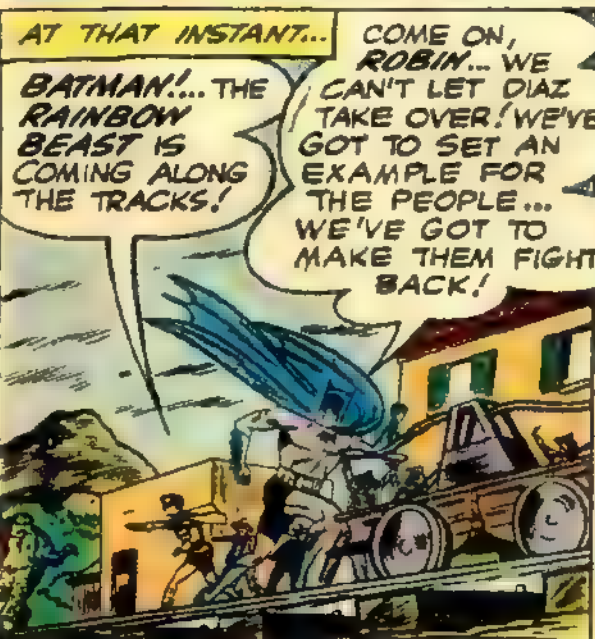
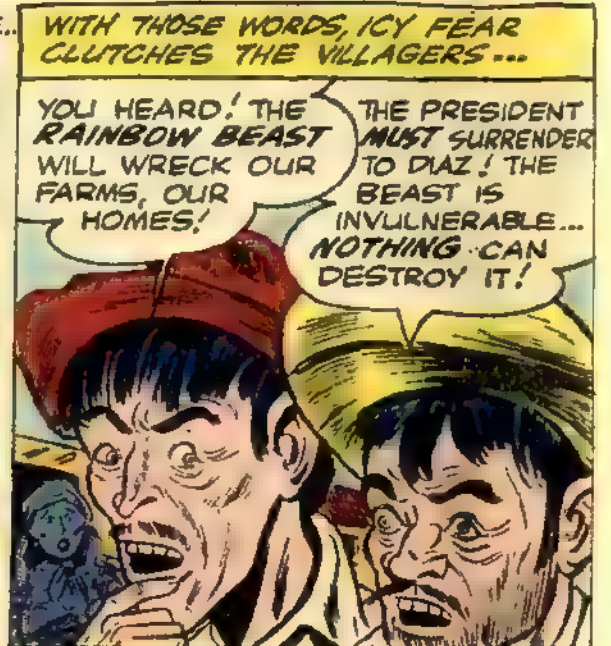
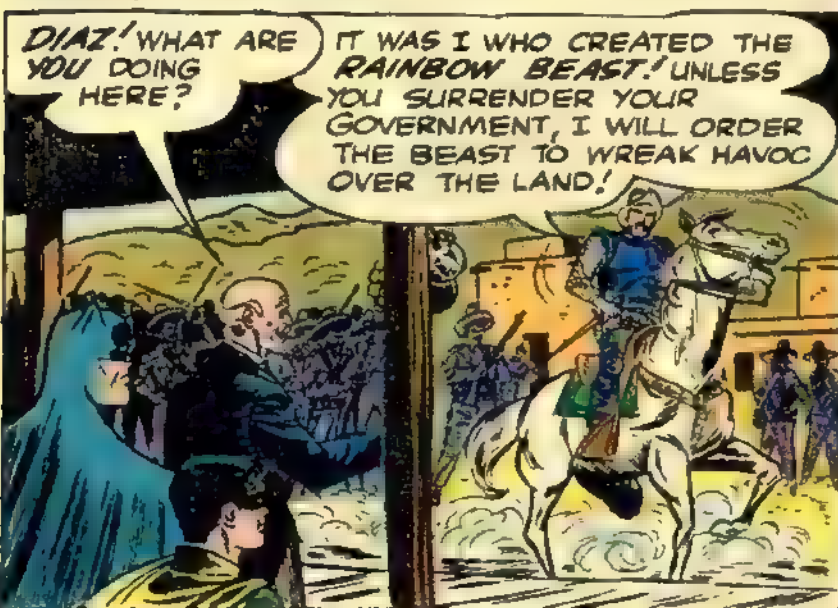




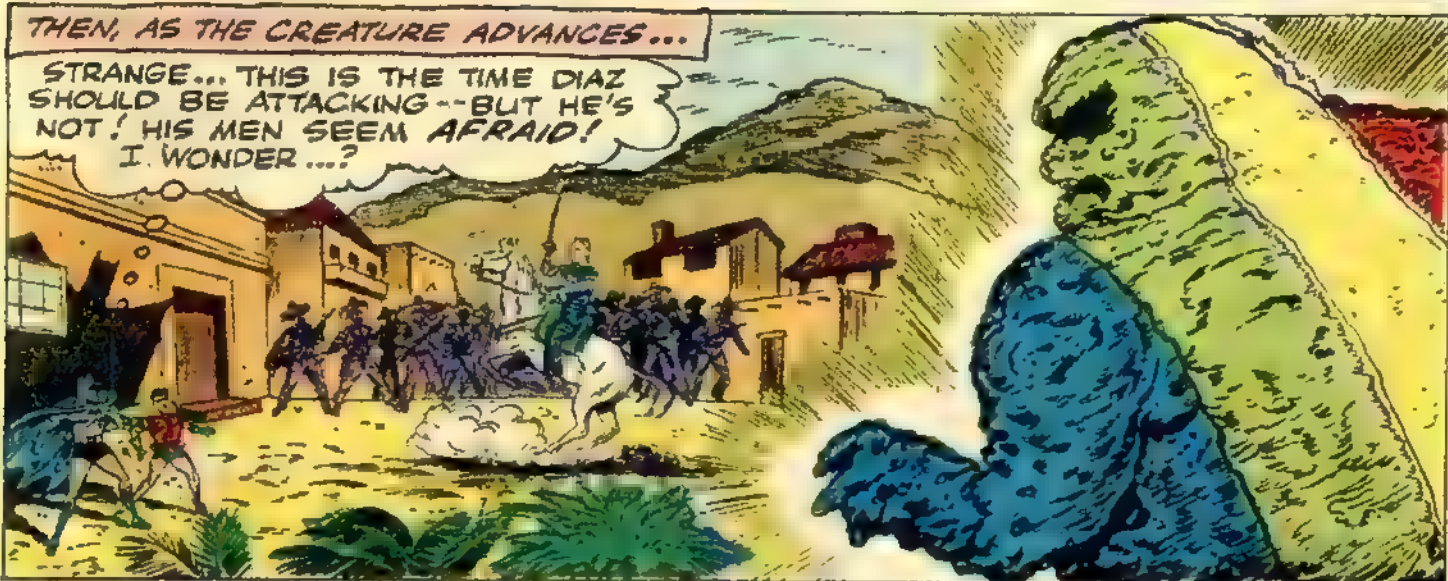
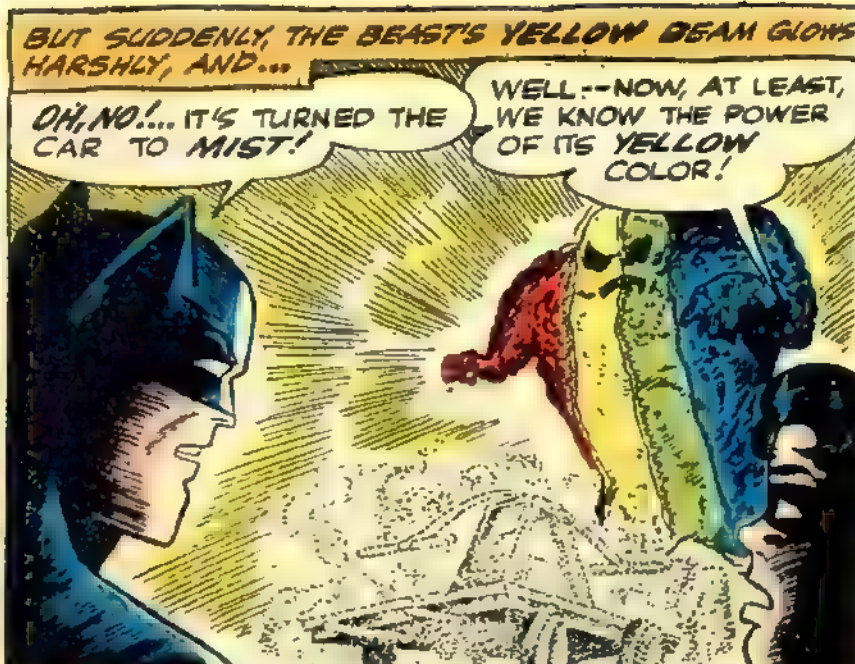
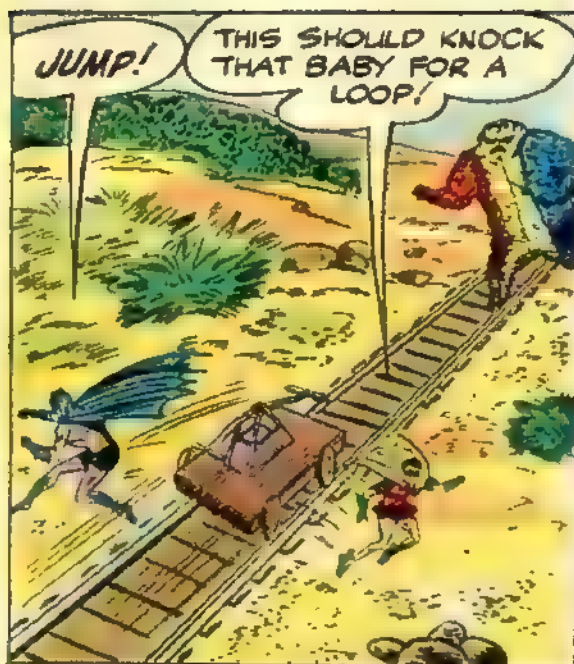
LATER, AFTER PICKING UP THE RAINBOW BEAST'S TRAIL, WHICH CROSSES A NEARBY COPPER REFINERY...



SHORTLY, AS THE SEARCH LEADS TO A LOCAL VILLAGE...

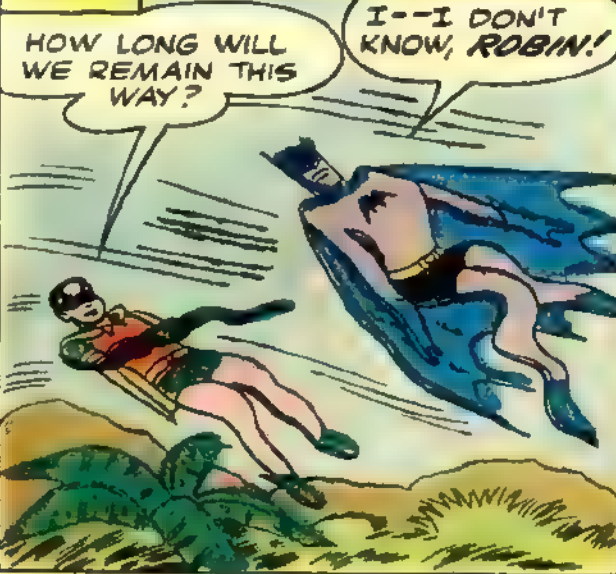








LIKE LEAVES, INDEED, THE HELPLESS PAIR IS BORNE AWAY ON A PUFF OF WIND...



HOW LONG WILL WE REMAIN THIS WAY?

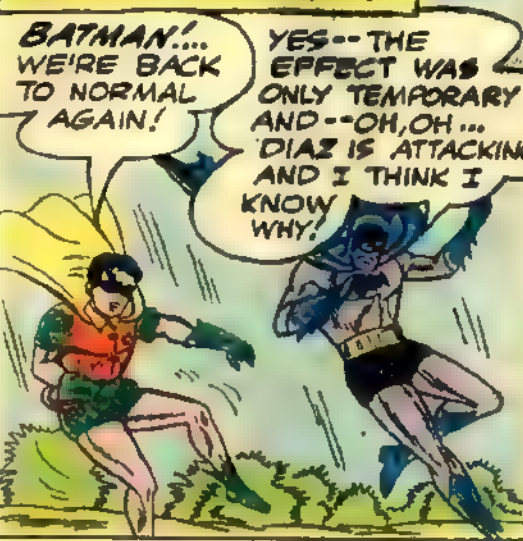
I--I DON'T KNOW, ROBIN!

MEANWHILE, AS THE RAINBOW BEAST MOVES ON PAST THE VILLAGE...



FORWARD, MEN--CHARGE!

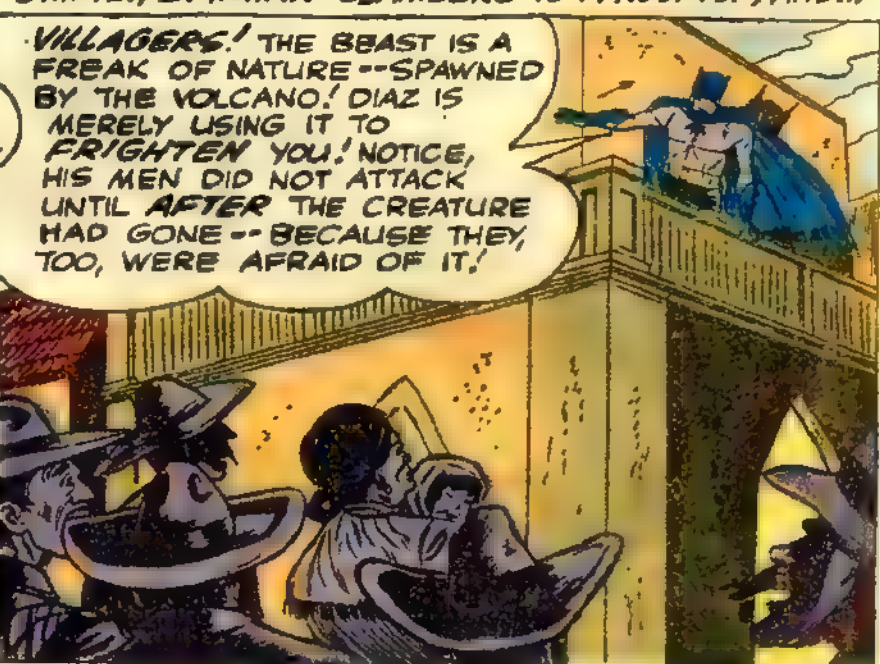
BUT AT THAT MOMENT...



BATMAN!... WE'RE BACK TO NORMAL AGAIN!

YES--THE EFFECT WAS ONLY TEMPORARY AND--OH, OH... DIAZ IS ATTACKING-- AND I THINK I KNOW WHY!

SWIFTLY, BATMAN CLAMBERS TO A ROOFTOP, AND...



VILLAGERS! THE BEAST IS A FREAK OF NATURE--SPAWNED BY THE VOLCANO! DIAZ IS MERELY USING IT TO FRIGHTEN YOU! NOTICE, HIS MEN DID NOT ATTACK UNTIL AFTER THE CREATURE HAD GONE--BECAUSE THEY, TOO, WERE AFRAID OF IT!

IF DIAZ CAN CONTROL THE BEAST, AS HE CLAIMS-- WHY WOULD HIS OWN MEN BE AFRAID OF IT?



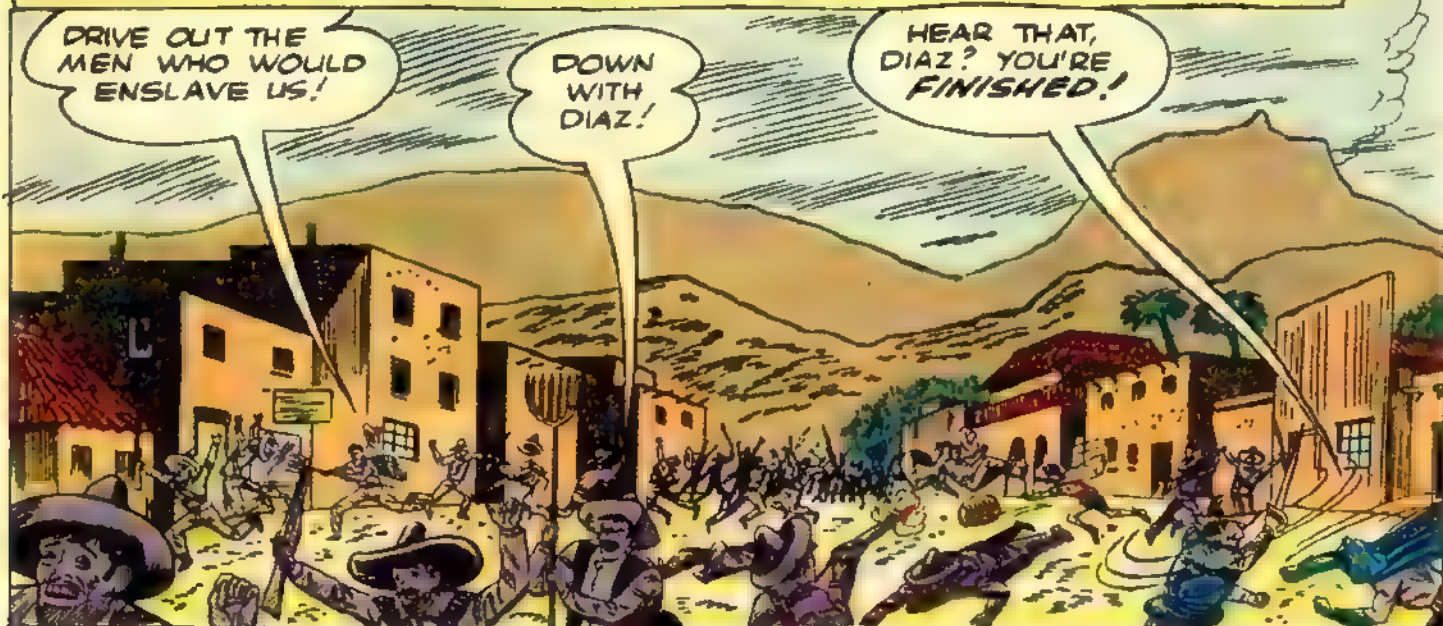
SILENCE HIM! SHOOT HIM DOWN!



TOO LATE, DIAZ... THE PEOPLE ARE WISE TO YOU NOW!



REALIZING THEY HAVE BEEN DUPED, THE IRATE VILLAGERS RISE UP IN ANGER...



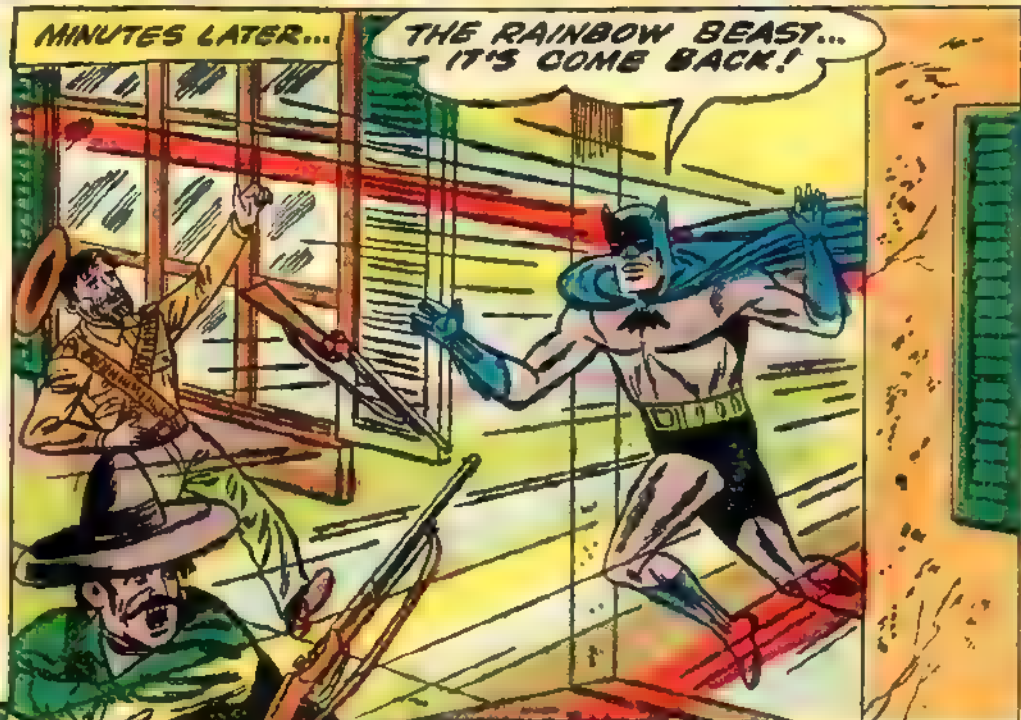
DRIVE OUT THE MEN WHO WOULD ENSLAVE US!

DOWN WITH DIAZ!

HEAR THAT, DIAZ? YOU'RE FINISHED!

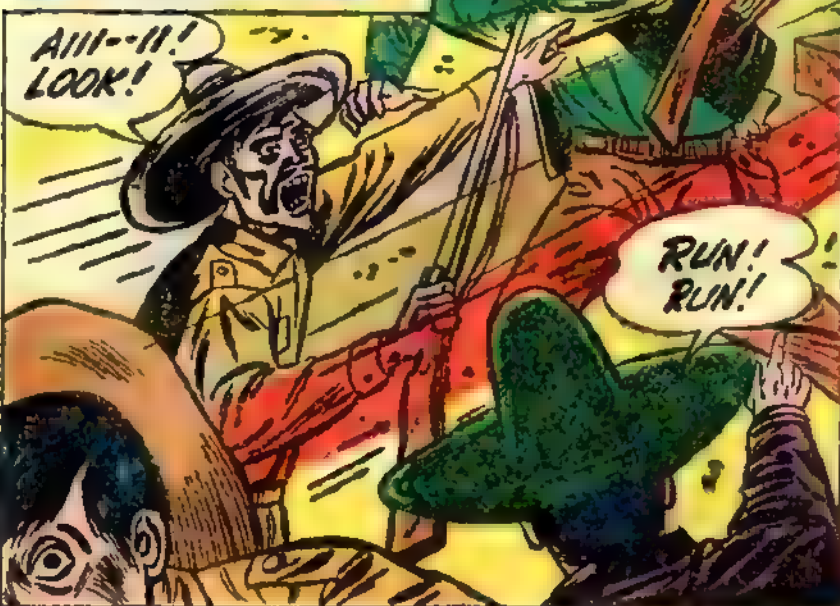


DIAZ'S SOLDIERS HAVE RIFLES--INNOCENT VILLAGERS MAY BE KILLED! HOW CAN I STOP IT? HMMM--THERE'S A TOY SHOP ON THIS STREET... IT GIVES ME AN IDEA!



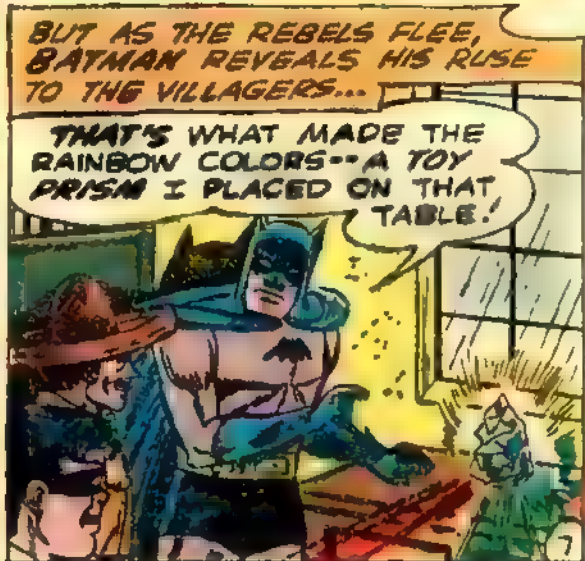
MINUTES LATER...

THE RAINBOW BEAST... IT'S COME BACK!



AHH--!! LOOK!

RUN! RUN!



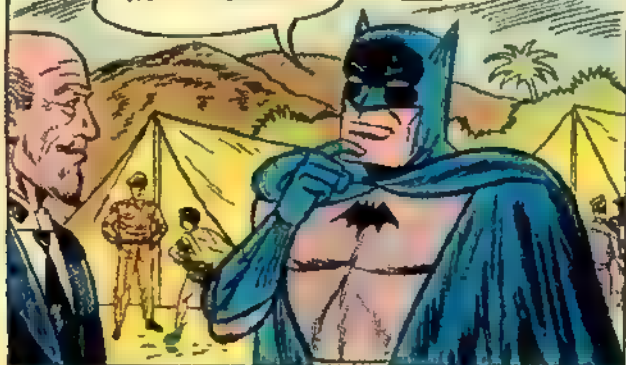
BUT AS THE REBELS FLEE, BATMAN REVEALS HIS RUSE TO THE VILLAGERS...

THAT'S WHAT MADE THE RAINBOW COLORS--A TOY PRISM I PLACED ON THAT TABLE!



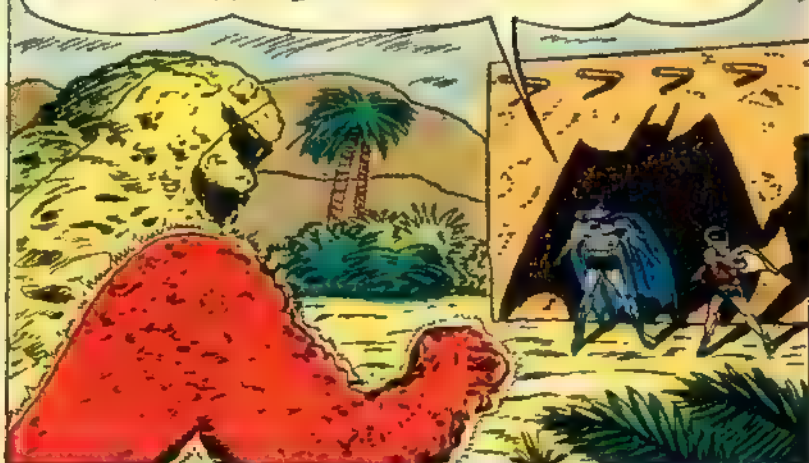
LATER, WITH THE CAPTURE OF DIAZ, THERE STILL REMAINS THE MENACE OF THE RAINBOW BEAST...

FROM WHAT WE'VE SEEN, THERE MAY BE A PATTERN TO THE WAY THE BEAST USES ITS POWERS! IF SO, I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT MAY WORK...



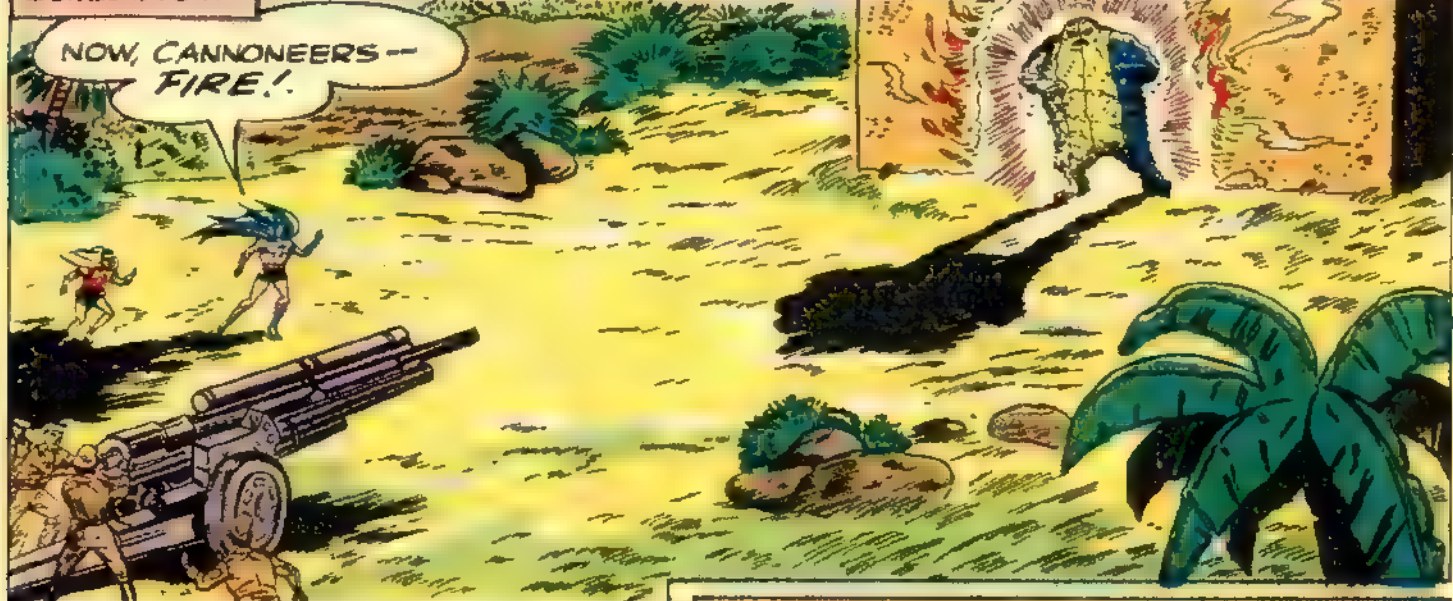
PRESENTLY, AFTER SOME HASTY PREPARATIONS...

HERE IT COMES! IF I'M RIGHT, THE CREATURE USES ITS RED COLOR TO BURN ITS WAY THROUGH ANY STRUCTURE IN ITS PATH!



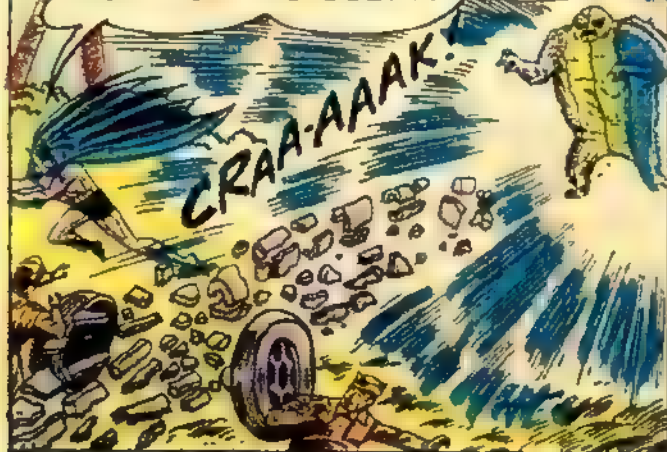
SCORE ONE FOR BATMAN, AS THE RAINBOW BEAST FLAMES THROUGH THE BUILDING...

NOW, CANNONEERS -- FIRE!



NO SOONER DOES THE BIG GUN GO OFF THAN...

JUST AS I HOPED -- THE BEAST USES THE POWER OF ITS BLUE COLOR AGAINST PROJECTILES! NOW FOR THE JEEP...



INSTANTS LATER, AS BATMAN ANTICIPATED...

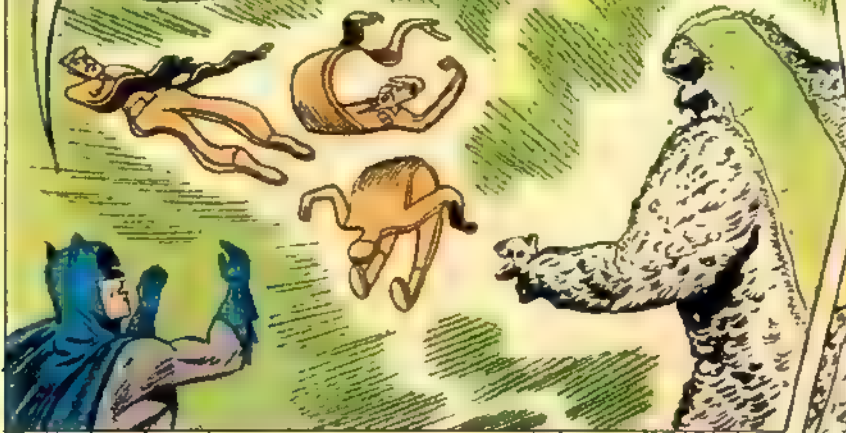
IT USES ITS YELLOW COLOR AGAINST VEHICLES! NOW--IF IT WILL ONLY USE THE POWER OF ITS GREEN BEAM ON THE VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS BLOCKING ITS PATH AHEAD...





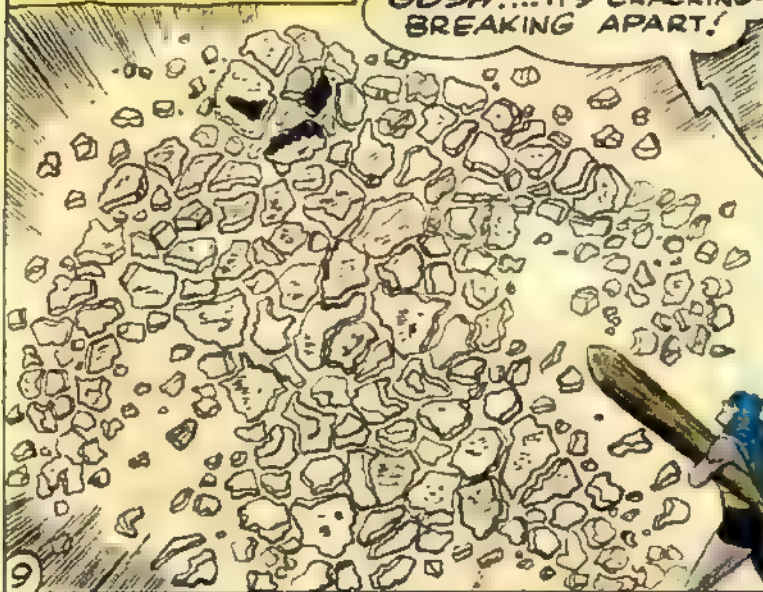
AND AGAIN, BATMAN'S HOPE IS REALIZED, AS...

DON'T WORRY, MEN--  
THE EFFECT IS ONLY  
TEMPORARY!



BUT BEFORE THEY CAN DO SO, THE RAINBOW  
BEAST UNDERGOES A STRANGE  
TRANSFORMATION...

GOSH!... IT'S CRACKING--  
BREAKING APART!



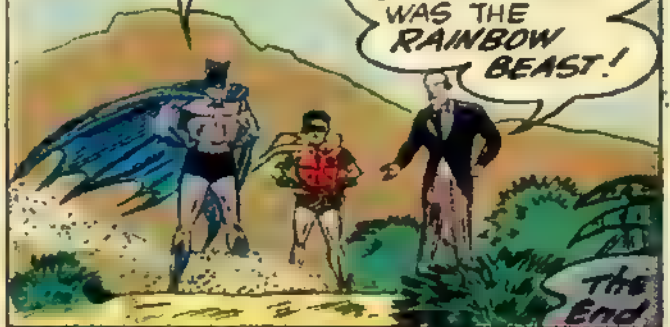
THE PLAN WORKED! WE'VE MADE  
THE RAINBOW BEAST USE ALL  
ITS POWERS AT ONE TIME! NOW,  
BEFORE IT CAN ABSORB ANY  
MORE COLOR AND RENEW ITS  
POWERS, WE'VE GOT TO RAM  
IT-- HARD!



AND WITHIN SECONDS, ALL THAT  
REMAINS OF THE RAINBOW BEAST  
IS A MOUND OF COLORLESS DUST...

WHEN ITS POWER  
AND COLOR WENT, THE  
LIFE-FORCE THAT  
HELD IT TOGETHER  
WENT, TOO!

NOW THE WIND  
WILL CARRY  
THE DUST AWAY--  
AND THERE  
WILL BE  
NOTHING LEFT  
OF WHAT ONCE  
WAS THE  
RAINBOW  
BEAST!



The End

THIS FAMOUS SYMBOL  
IS YOUR  
*Guarantee*  
OF THE **BEST**  
IN COMICS  
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12

# BATMAN

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AUTHORITY

FEB.  
NO. 153

A STARTLING  
3-PART NOVEL  
FEATURING  
**BATMAN**  
and **ROBIN** and  
**BATWOMAN**  
and **BAT-GIRL**  
in  
**PRISONERS  
of THREE  
WORLDS!**

ROBIN AND  
BAT-GIRL ARE  
VANISHING--AND  
OUR LIFE FORCES  
ARE BEING DRAINED  
FROM US!





**BATMAN**  
With **ROBIN**  
THE BOY WONDER

THE ALIEN HAS SNAPPED THE WIRES WITH HIS ANTI-GRAVITY SLED! BATMAN WE'RE FALLING!

**Chapter 1**

BATWOMAN AND BAT-GIRL ARE A GREAT CRIME-FIGHTING TEAM AND BATMAN AND ROBIN AN EVEN GREATER ONE! BUT FATE STEPS IN TO HURTLE ROBIN WITH BAT-GIRL, AND BATMAN WITH BATWOMAN INTO STRANGE SPACE BEYOND LANDS AND TIME WHERE THEY BECOME...

**PRISONERS OF THREE WORLDS**

BOB KALE

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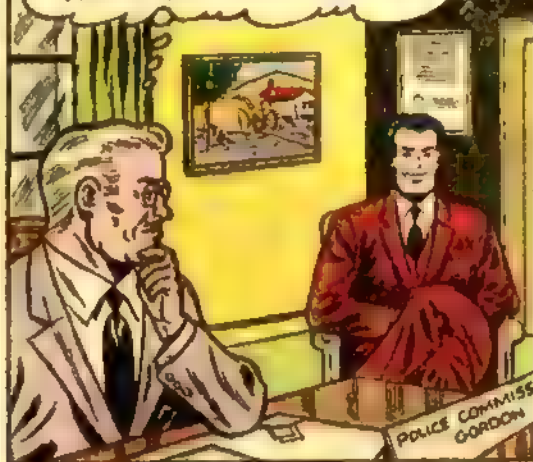
# BATMAN



IN GOTHAM CITY, A DEADLY DRAMA IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE-- AND UNKNOWINGLY, FOUR APPARENTLY ORDINARY PEOPLE WILL BE THRUST INTO THE LEADING ROLES...

**BRUCE WAYNE--** WEALTHY, PROMINENT SOCIALITE...

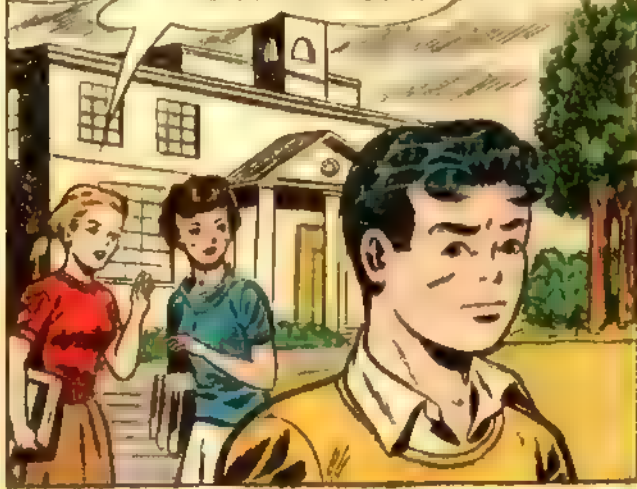
BRUCE IS A NICE, AMIABLE FELLOW-- BUT IT'S A MYSTERY TO ME WHY HE SEEMS TO HAVE NO GOAL IN LIFE!



POLICE COMMISS GORDON

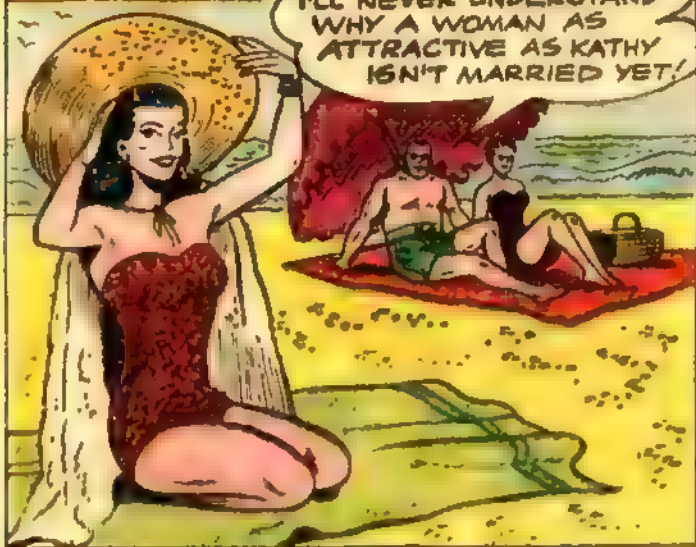
**DICK GRAYSON--** WAYNE'S YOUNG WARD...

DICK GRAYSON IS CUTE-LOOKING-- BUT HE'S SUCH A DRAG. HE ISN'T EVEN GOING TO THE SCHOOL DANCE THIS AFTERNOON!



**KATHY KANE--** BLESSED WITH RICHES AND BEAUTY...

I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY A WOMAN AS ATTRACTIVE AS KATHY ISN'T MARRIED YET!



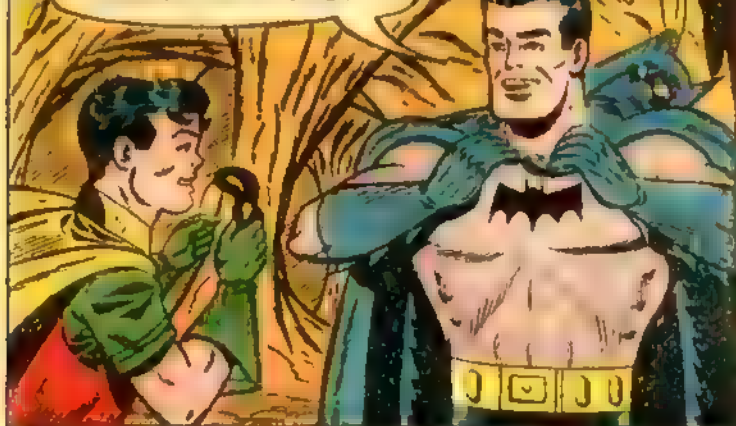
**BETTY KANE--** KATHY'S YOUNG NIECE, FROM OUT-OF-TOWN...

I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE AUNT KATHY AGAIN! EXCITING THINGS ALWAYS HAPPEN WHEN I VISIT HER!



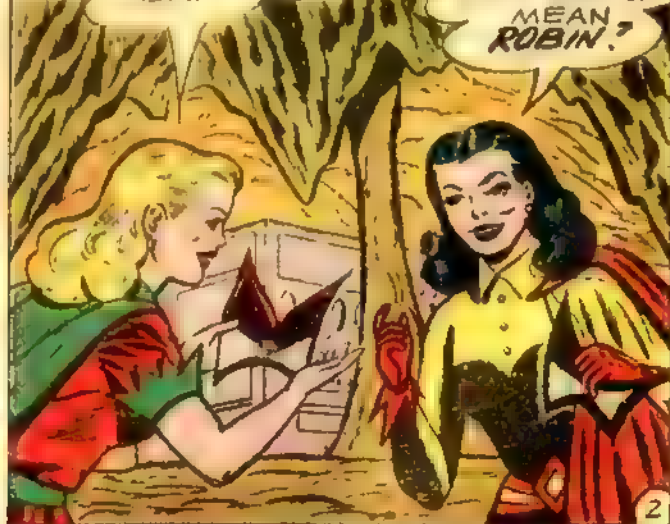
FOUR ORDINARY PEOPLE, WITH ORDINARY LIVES! BUT, UNKNOWN TO THE WORLD, EACH OF THEM HAS A **DOUBLE LIFE**!

OKAY, **ROBIN**--LET'S TAKE THE **BATMOBILE** OUT FOR A SPIN AND SEE IF ANY CRIMES NEED BUSTING!



HURRY AUNT KATHY! GOSH! I HOPE I GET A CHANCE TO SEE **BATMAN** AGAIN

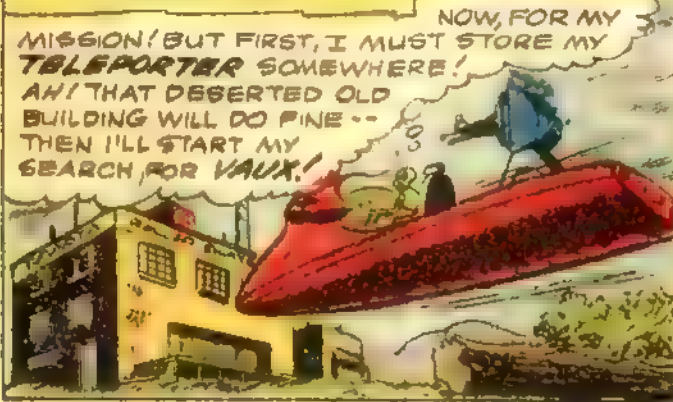
**BATMAN?** ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T REALLY MEAN **ROBIN**?





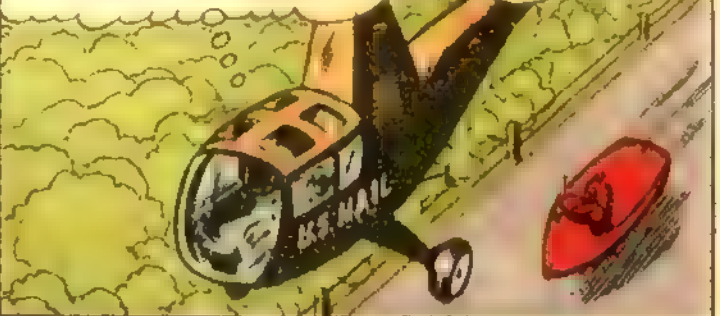
FOUR NOT-SO-ORDINARY PEOPLE--BUT THERE IS YET ANOTHER, WHOM FATE HAS SELECTED TO CATAPULT THEM INTO FANTASTIC ADVENTURE!

NOW, FOR MY MISSION! BUT FIRST, I MUST STORE MY TELEPORTER SOMEWHERE! AH! THAT DESERTED OLD BUILDING WILL DO FINE-- THEN I'LL START MY SEARCH FOR VAUX!



SHORTLY, AS A U.S. MAIL HELICOPTER IS ON ITS WAY TOWARD A MAIL STATION...

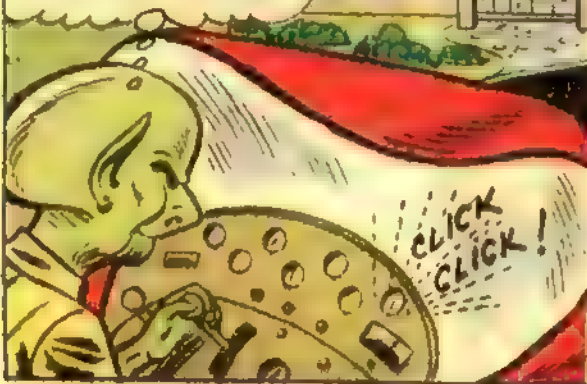
GREAT GUNS! SOME KIND OF ALIEN BEING! I'D BETTER SEE WHERE HE'S HEADING-- AND RADIO THE POLICE IN CASE HE INTENDS TO MAKE TROUBLE!



AS THE ALIEN NEARS THE ROAD...

THE VAUX-DETECTOR IS CLICKING--INDICATING A GOOD QUANTITY OF VAUX IN THAT BUILDING AHEAD!

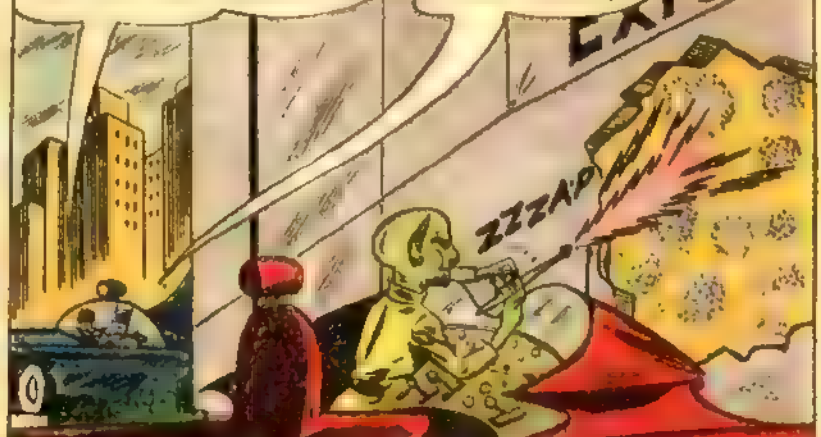
JEAN'S DESIGN EXPOSITION



MOMENTS LATER, THE BATMOBILE DRAWS NEAR...

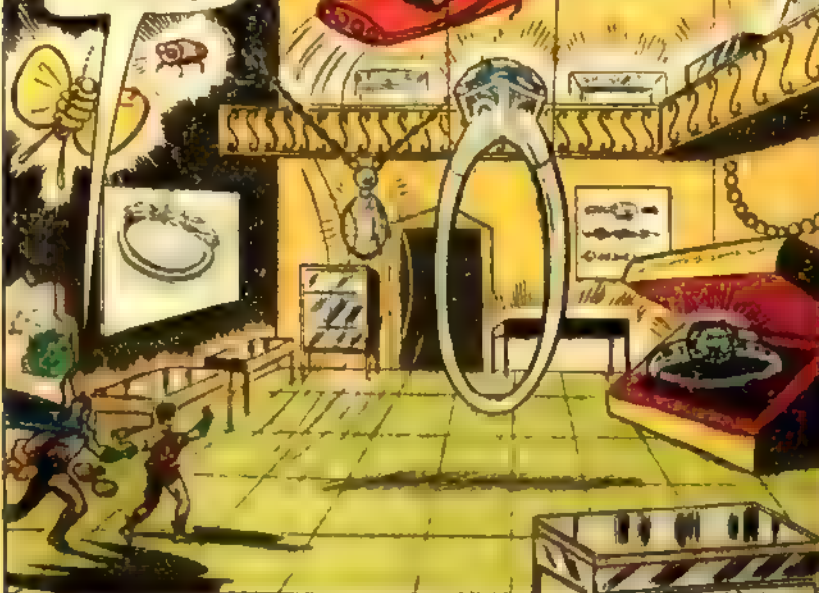
THAT MUST BE HIM-- THE ALIEN THE POLICE ALARM MENTIONED!

HIS STRANGE WEAPON IS DISINTEGRATING THAT WALL!

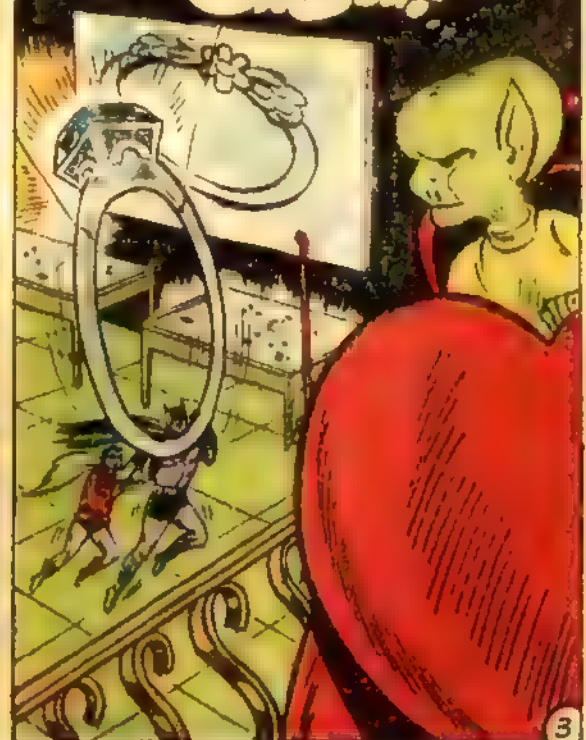


AS THE ALIEN'S SLED ZOOMS INTO THE BUILDING, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS ARE CLOSE BEHIND...

HE'S HEADING FOR THE BALCONY! WE'VE GOT TO GET UP THERE FAST, ROBIN! THAT REPLIC OF A DIAMOND RING WILL TAKE US THERE!



THOSE TWO-- THEY SEEM INTENT UPON SEIZING ME!



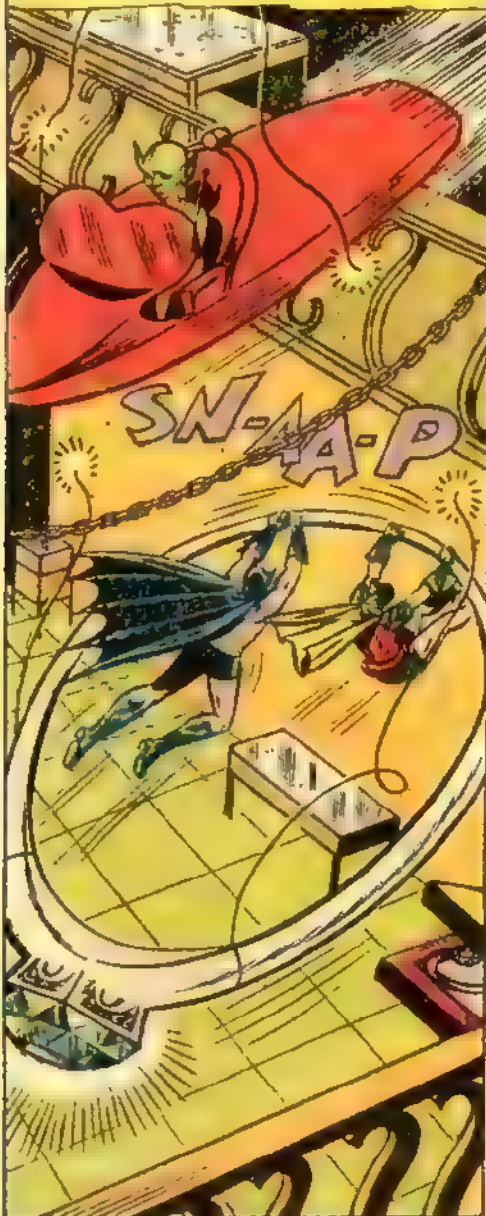




# BATMAN

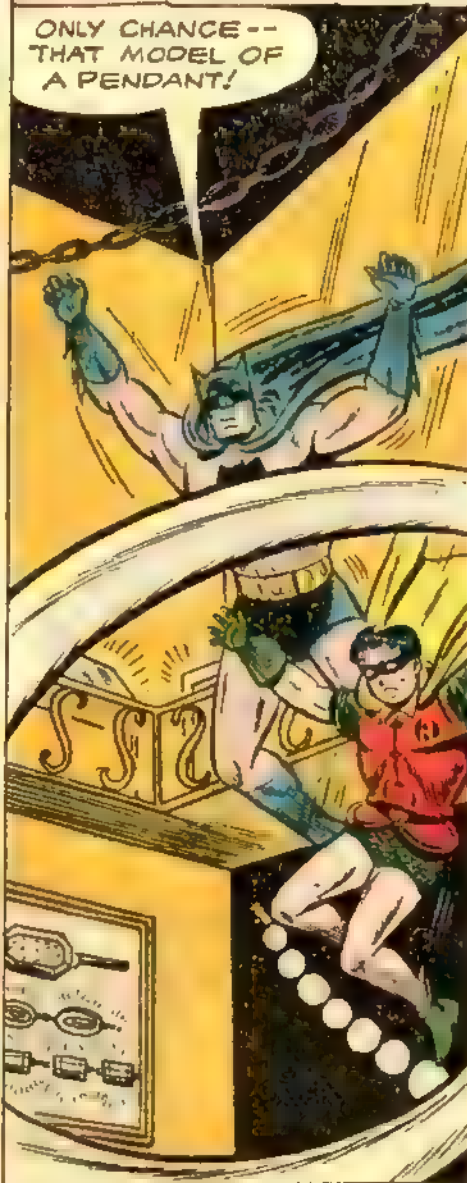


SWIFTLY, *KARN* DRIVES HIS SLED FORWARD AT AMAZING SPEED, SNAPPING THE WIRES...

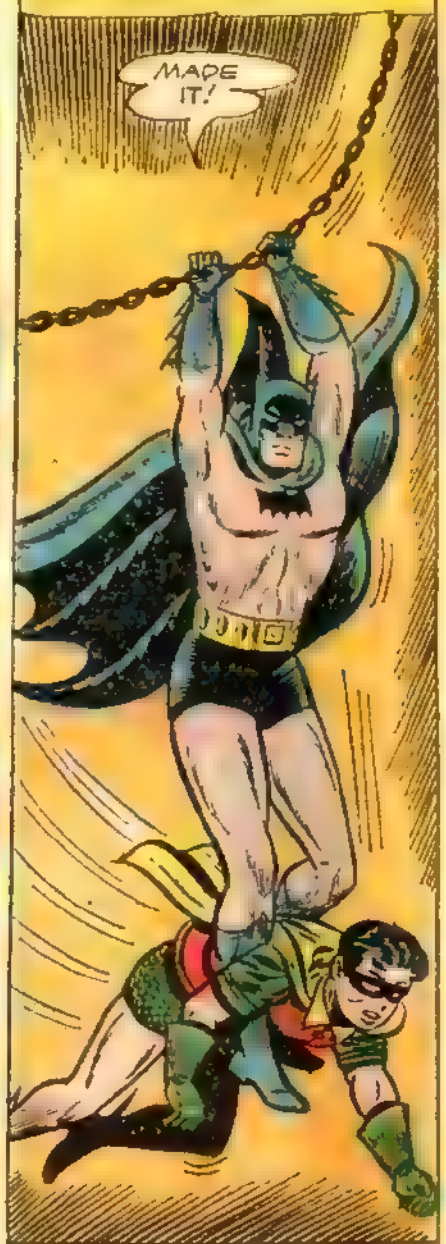


INSTANTLY, *BATMAN* GAUGES THE DANGER--AND TRAINED REFLEXES ACT WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF THOUGHT!

ONLY CHANCE--  
THAT MODEL OF  
A PENDANT!

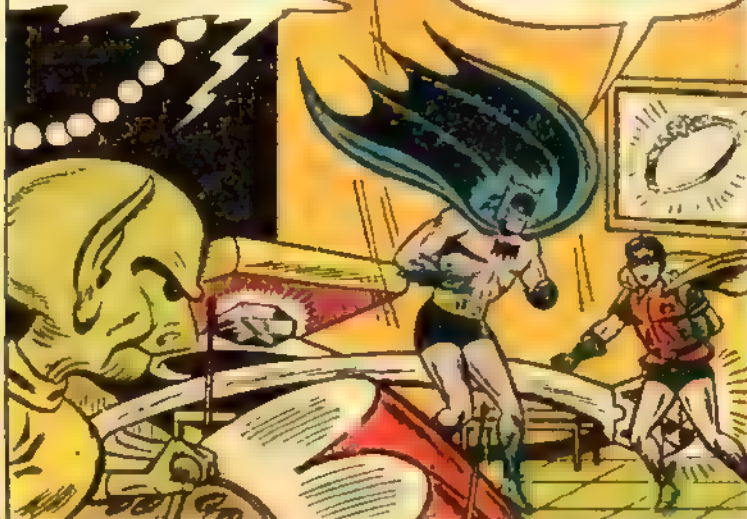


VISELIKE, *BATMAN'S* HANDS GRIP THEIR TARGET, AND...



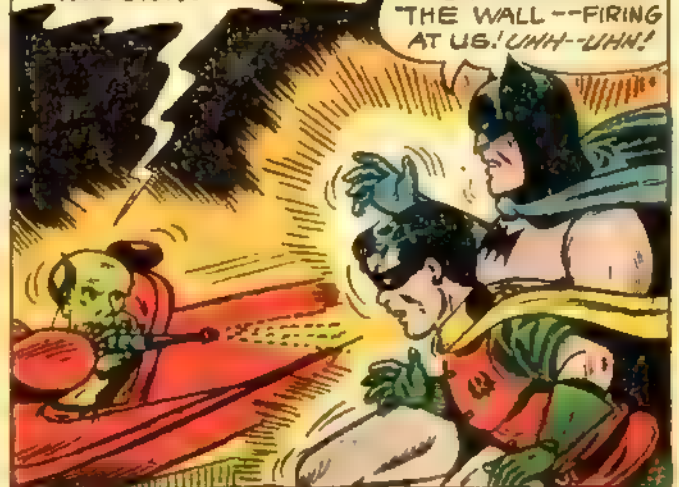
I AM GLAD YOU ESCAPED INJURY-- BUT I CANNOT RISK LETTING YOU CAPTURE ME!

THE ALIEN IS "SPEAKING" TO US BY PROJECTING HIS THOUGHTS!



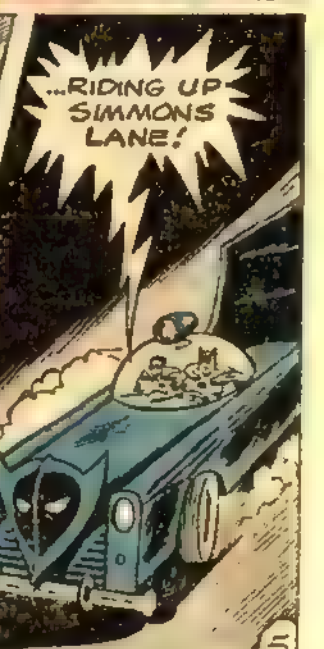
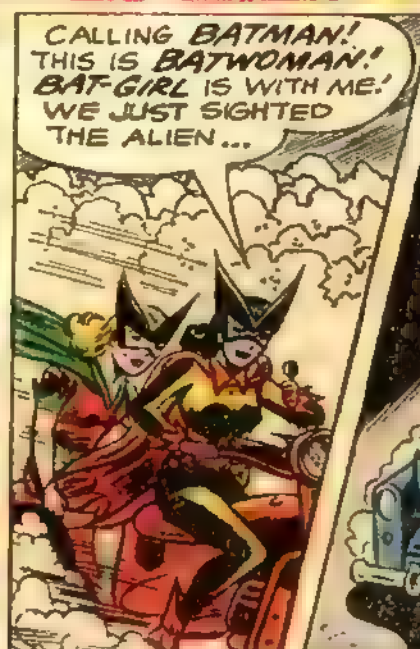
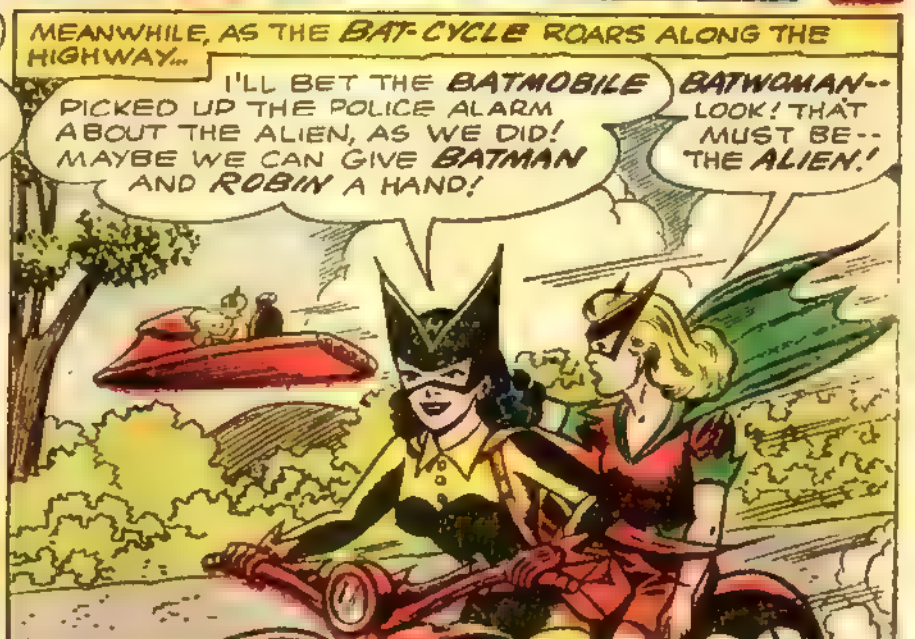
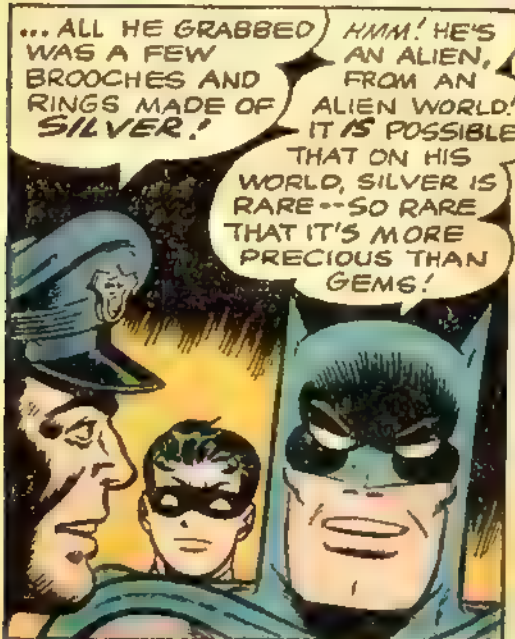
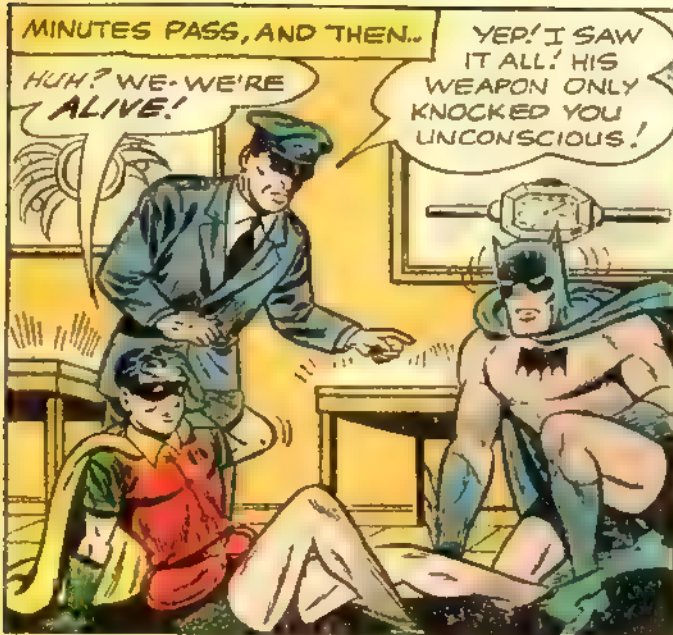
I MUST STOP YOU FROM INTERFERING WITH MY MISSION!

THE WEAPON THAT DISINTEGRATED THE WALL-- FIRING AT US! UHH-UHH!



IS THIS TO BE THE END OF *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN*?









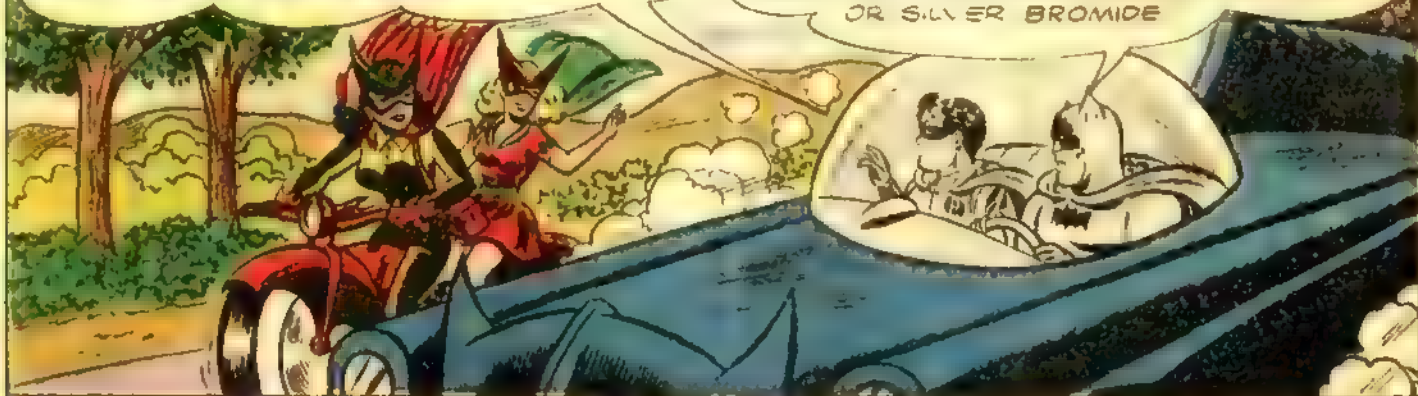
# BATMAN



SHORTLY, AFTER THE TWO TEAMS OF CRIME-FIGHTERS JOIN FORCES...

SIMMONS LANE LEADS TO THE BIG ACE FILM COMPANY PLANT! THEY USE A LOT OF SILVER THERE!

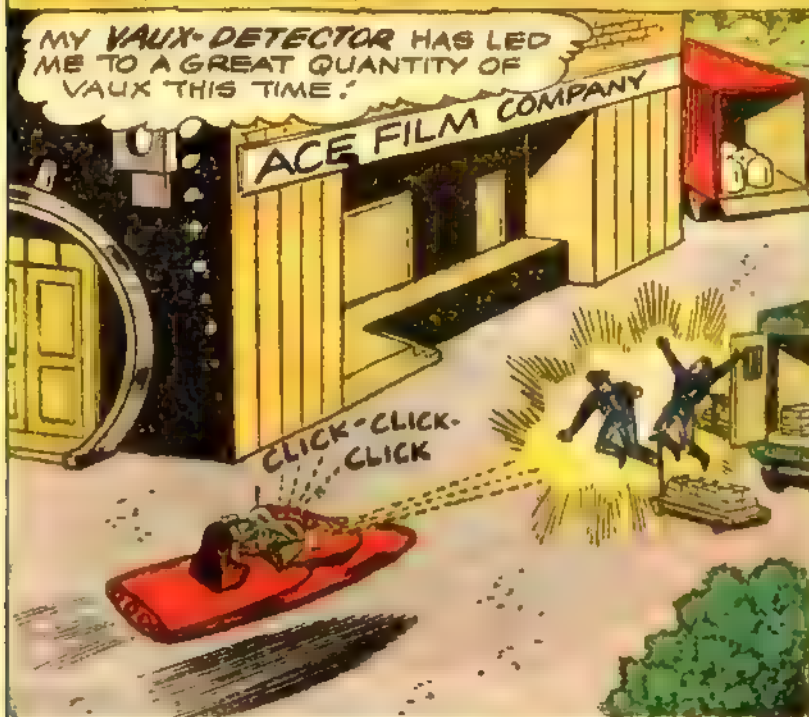
RIGHT! THAT COMPANY MANUFACTURES TONS OF PHOTOGRAPHIC FILM--AND FILM EMULSION CONTAINS SILVER CHLORIDE OR SILVER BROMIDE



AS GUARDS ARE ABOUT TO WHEEL INGOTS OF SILVER INTO THE FILM COMPANY'S NOVEL BUILDING...

MY VAUX-DETECTOR HAS LED ME TO A GREAT QUANTITY OF VAUX THIS TIME!

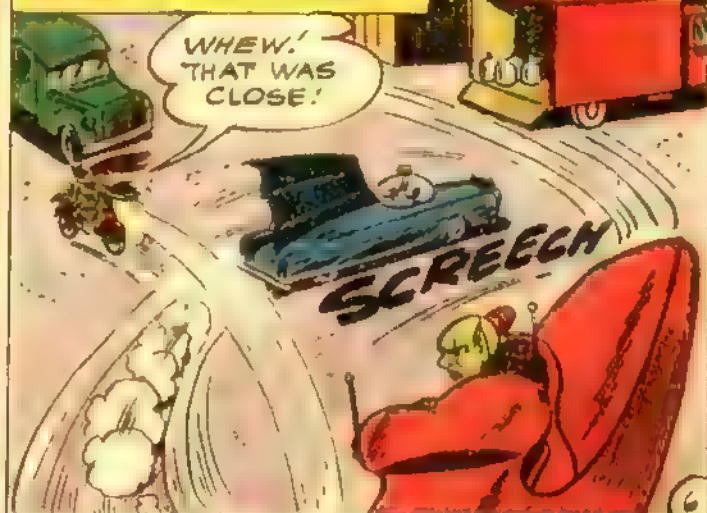
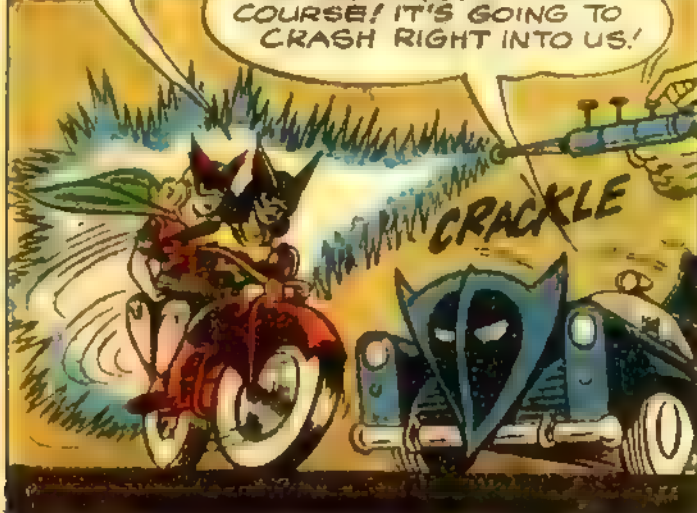
THE ONES WHO CALLED EACH OTHER BATMAN AND ROBIN! AND WITH THEM ARE TWO MASKED FEMALES! I MUST ACT QUICKLY!



I CAN'T STEER!

GREAT SCOTT! NOW HIS WEIRD GUN IS PUSHING THE BAT-CYCLE OFF-COURSE! IT'S GOING TO CRASH RIGHT INTO US!

WITH LIGHTNING-LIKE REFLEXES, BATMAN STEPS ON THE GAS, AND THEN YANKS HARD AT THE WHEEL...



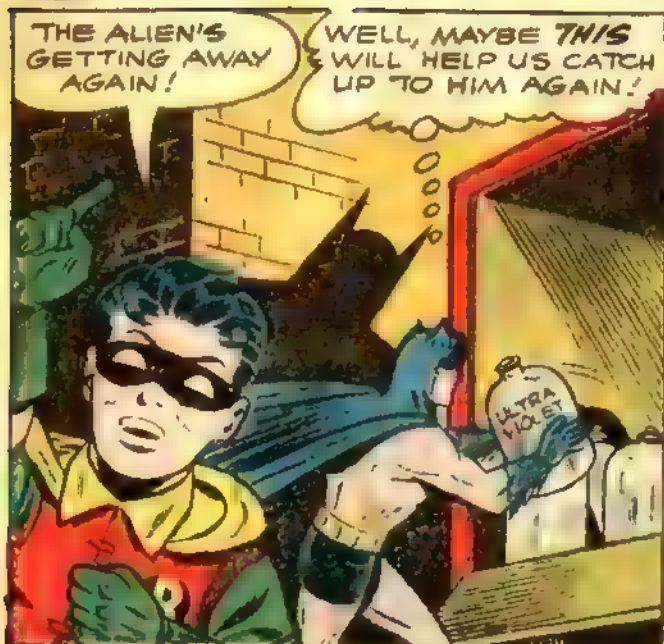
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!

SCREECH



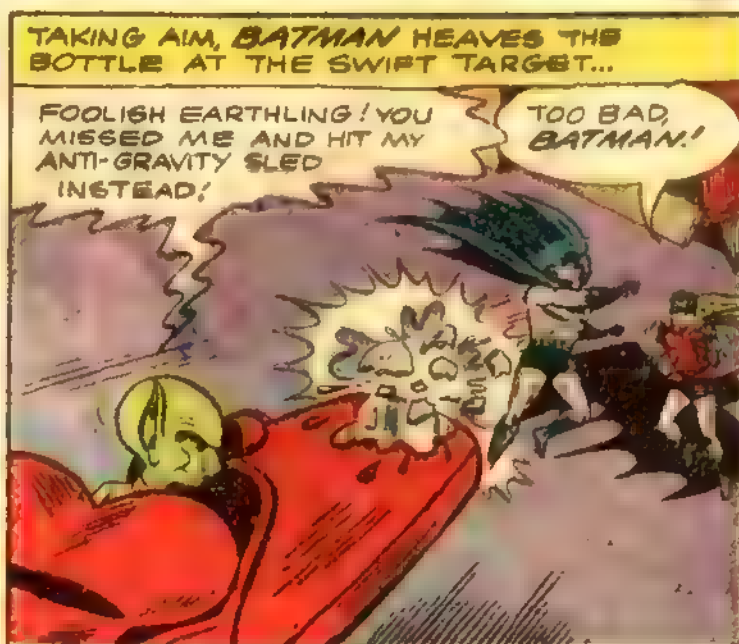


# BATMAN



THE ALIEN'S GETTING AWAY AGAIN!

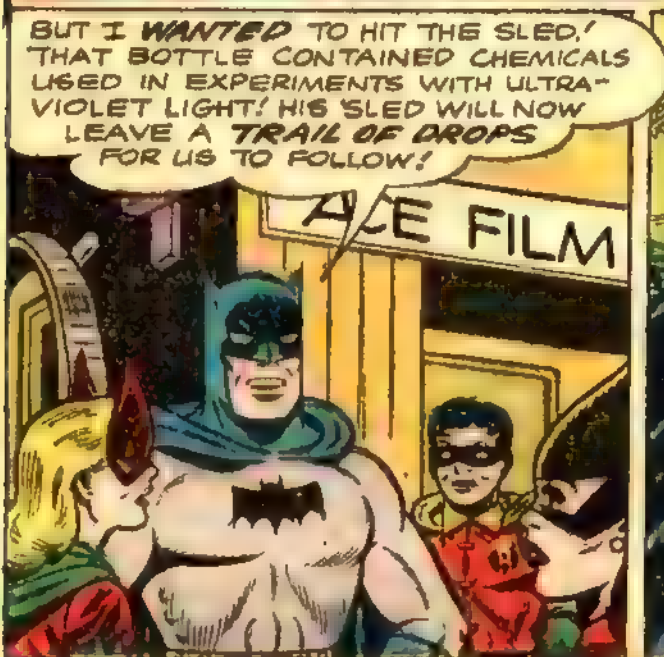
WELL, MAYBE *THIS* WILL HELP US CATCH UP TO HIM AGAIN!



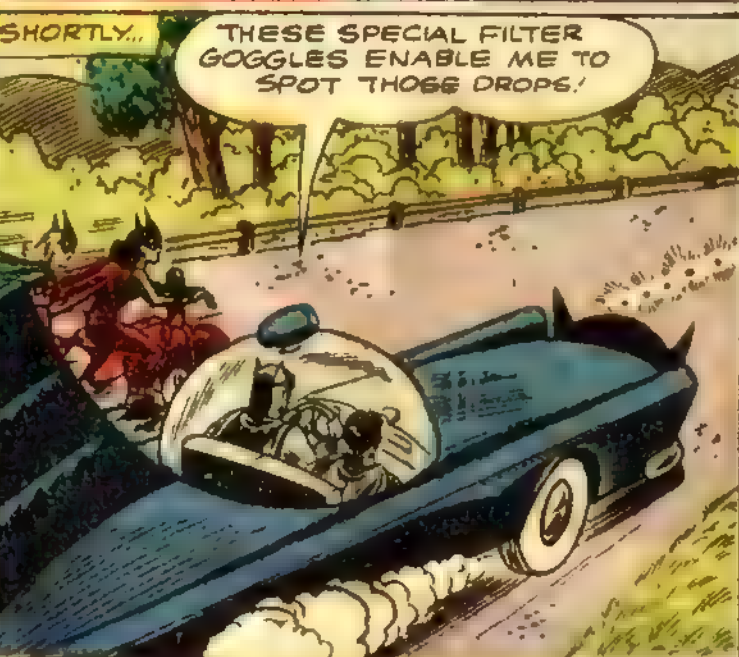
TAKING AIM, **BATMAN** HEAVES THE BOTTLE AT THE SWIFT TARGET...

FOOLISH EARTHLING! YOU MISSED ME AND HIT MY ANTI-GRAVITY SLED INSTEAD!

TOO BAD, **BATMAN!**

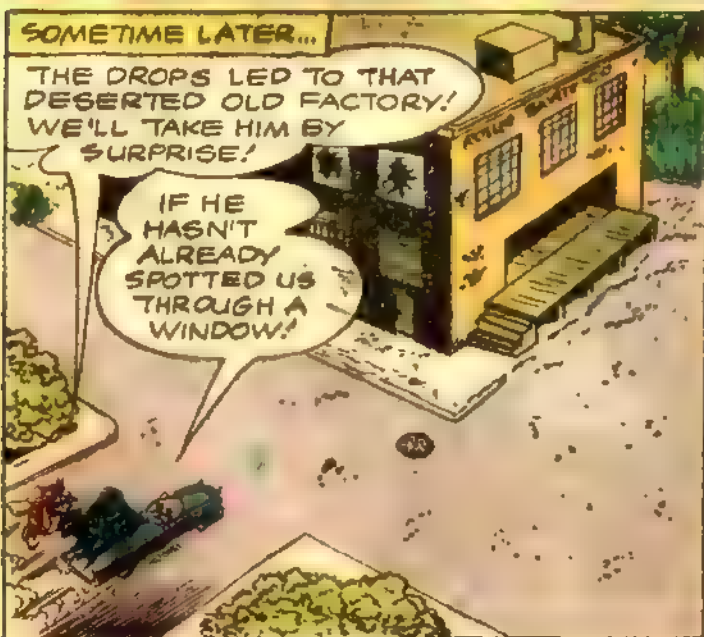


BUT I *WANTED* TO HIT THE SLED! THAT BOTTLE CONTAINED CHEMICALS USED IN EXPERIMENTS WITH ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT! HIS SLED WILL NOW LEAVE A *TRAIL OF DROPS* FOR US TO FOLLOW!



SHORTLY...

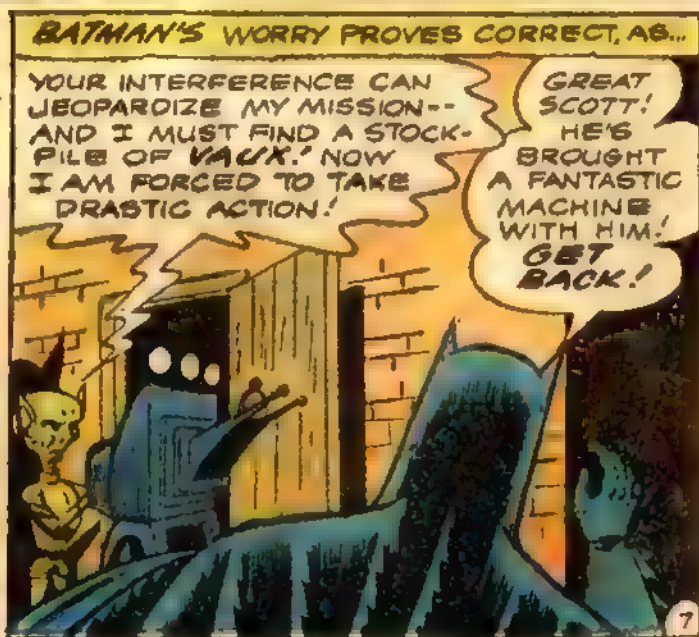
THESE SPECIAL FILTER GOGGLES ENABLE ME TO SPOT THOSE DROPS!



SOMETIME LATER...

THE DROPS LED TO THAT DESERTED OLD FACTORY! WE'LL TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE!

IF HE HASN'T ALREADY SPOTTED US THROUGH A WINDOW!



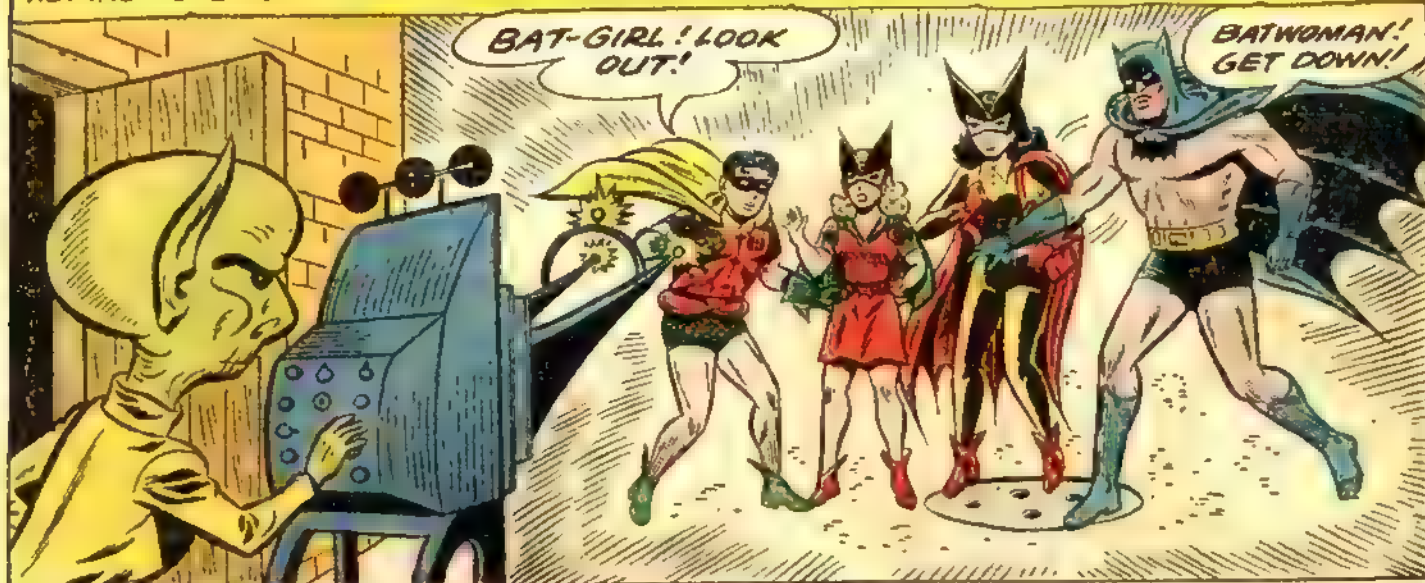
**BATMAN'S** WORRY PROVES CORRECT, AS...

YOUR INTERFERENCE CAN JEOPARDIZE MY MISSION-- AND I MUST FIND A STOCK-PILE OF *VAXX*. NOW I AM FORCED TO TAKE DRASTIC ACTION!

GREAT SCOTT! HE'S BROUGHT A FANTASTIC MACHINE WITH HIM! **GET BACK!**



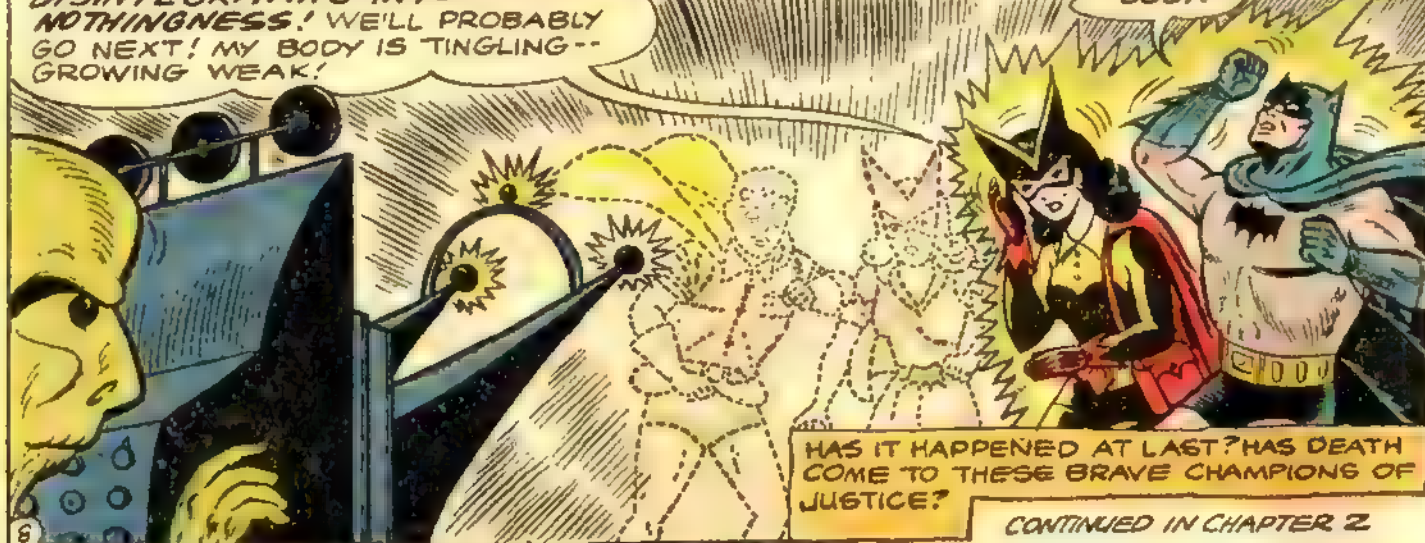
FEARING FOR **BATWOMAN** AND **BAT-GIRL**, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** LEAP FORWARD, HOPING TO SHIELD THEM FROM THE MACHINE'S SWEEPING RADIANCE!



SIMULTANEOUSLY, TWO AMAZING EVENTS OCCUR!

**BAT-GIRL AND ROBIN--**  
DISINTEGRATING INTO  
NOTHINGNESS! WE'LL PROBABLY  
GO NEXT! MY BODY IS TINGLING--  
GROWING WEAK!

ME, TOO! I FEEL AS IF EVERY  
ATOM IN ME IS STRETCHING--  
BREAKING FREE OF MY  
BODY!



CONTINUED IN CHAPTER 2



Follow the  
adventures  
of  
**BATMAN**  
and **ROBIN**  
IN THESE  
LATEST ISSUES  
of

**Detective**  
COMICS



NOV. 29th

ON SALE EVERYWHERE. /

← DEC. 27th







BATMAN



# BATMAN

With  
**ROBIN**  
THE BOY WONDER

THAT'S IT, BATWOMAN--  
CONCENTRATE! WE MUST  
FOCUS OUR ENERGY-FORCE  
AT THAT WINGED MONSTER,  
IN ORDER TO SAVE THE  
LIVES OF THE BIRD-  
PEOPLE!

## Chapter 2

AS BAT-GIRL AND ROBIN FADE INTO NOTHINGNESS, THEIR FATE REMAINS UNKNOWN--  
BUT WHAT OF BATMAN AND BATWOMAN? THEY HAVE BECOME VICTIMS OF A  
FREAK ACCIDENT--FOR THEY HAVE HURTLED INTO SPACE, YET REMAIN  
ON EARTH AT THE SAME TIME! INCREDIBLE, BUT TRUE--AS YOU WILL SEE  
WHEN BATMAN AND BATWOMAN ARE MENACED BY..

# DEATH FROM BEYOND



BEFORE THEIR HORRIFIED EYES, **BATMAN** AND **BATWOMAN** SEE **ROBIN** AND **BAT-GIRL** FADE INTO NOTHINGNESS! THEN...

TH--THEY'VE DISAPPEARED--BUT WE'RE STILL HERE! STRANGE--THE ELECTRIC AURA THAT WAS ABOUT US, IS GONE--AND NOW THAT IT HAS, I'M SO...SO TIRED...

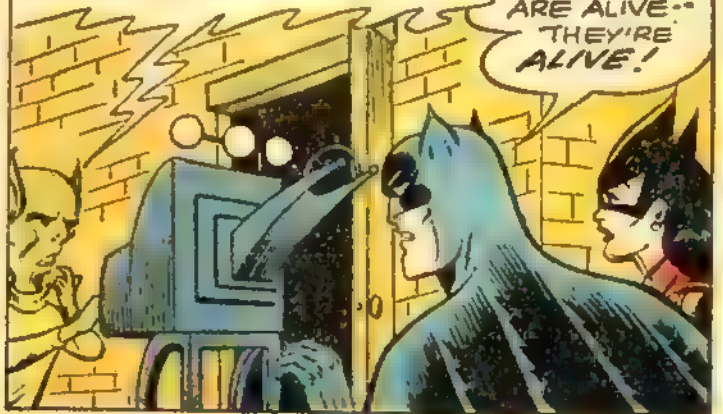
I--I FEEL AS IF ALL THE ENERGY WAS DRAINED FROM ME...



AT THAT MOMENT, THE MYSTIFIED ALIEN TURNS OFF HIS MACHINE...

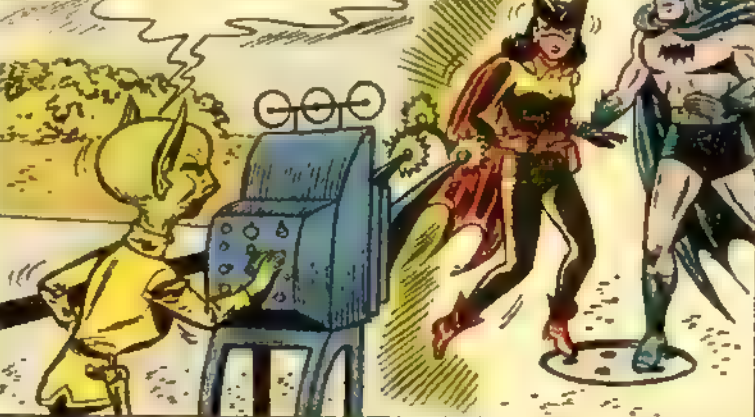
VERY ODD! MY **TELEPORTER** SHOULD HAVE TRANSMITTED YOU TWO TO MY DIMENSION, AS IT DID THE BOY AND THE GIRL--YET IT DIDN'T!

**BATWOMAN!** DID YOU HEAR? **ROBIN** AND **BAT-GIRL** ARE ALIVE--THEY'RE ALIVE!



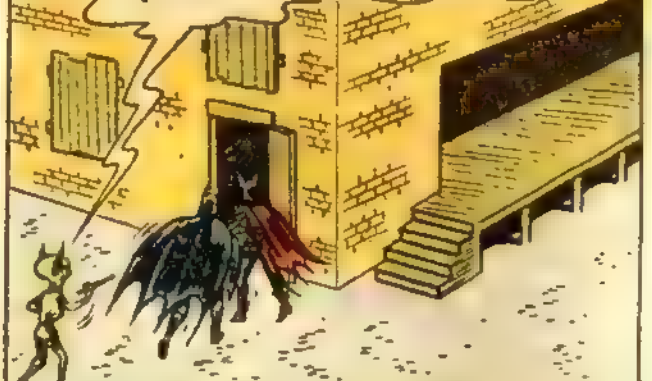
TRYING AGAIN, **KARN** TURNS ON THE POWER OF HIS **DIMENSION-TELEPORTER**, BUT...

FOR SOME REASON, IT FAILS TO TRANSMIT YOU TWO! BUT I CAN'T WASTE TIME PUZZLING IT OUT NOW! I HAVE A MISSION TO COMPLETE!



IN THEIR STRANGELY WEAKENED CONDITION, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS ARE UNABLE TO RESIST **KARN**...

JUST TO MAKE CERTAIN YOU CANNOT ESCAPE AND INTERFERE AGAIN, I'LL LOCK YOU IN A ROOM--WHILE I RAID YOUR WORLD FOR MORE **VAUX**!

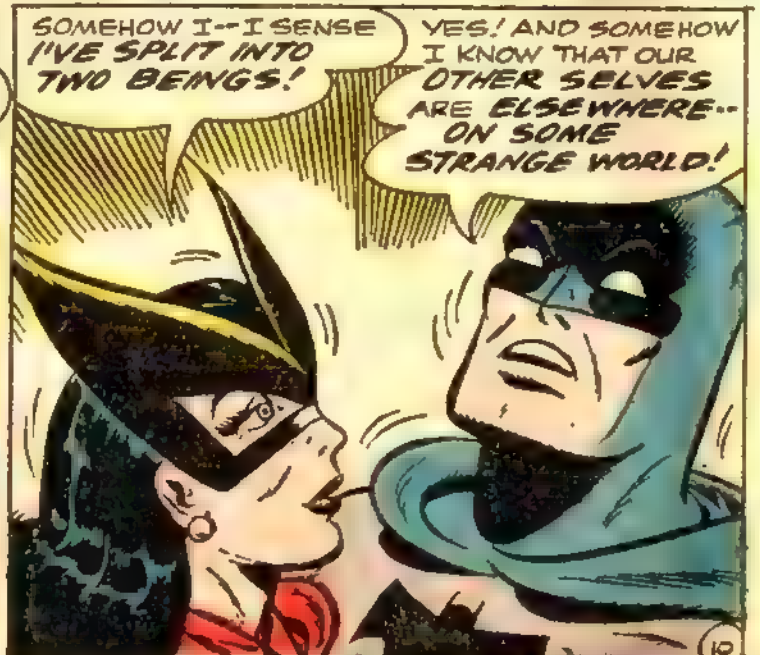
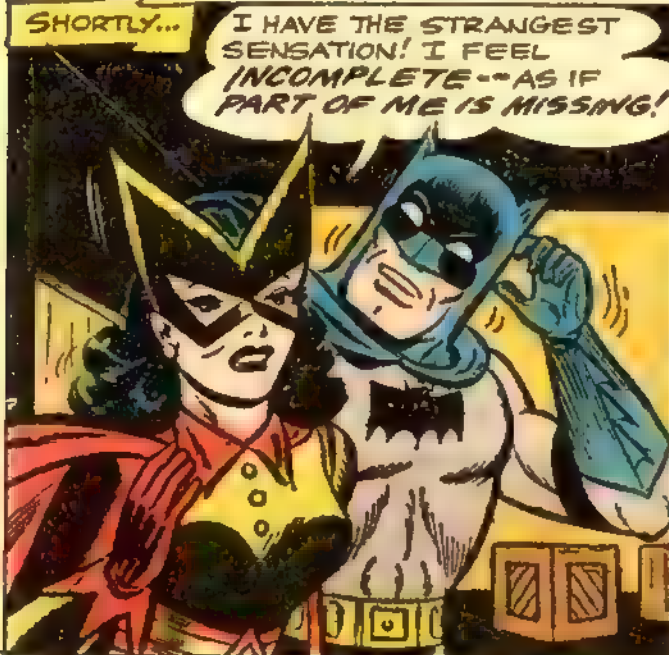


SHORTLY...

I HAVE THE STRANGEST SENSATION! I FEEL **INCOMPLETE**--AS IF PART OF ME IS MISSING!

SOMEHOW I--I SENSE I'VE SPLIT INTO TWO BEINGS!

YES! AND SOMEHOW I KNOW THAT OUR **OTHER SELVES** ARE **ELSEWHERE**--ON SOME **STRANGE WORLD**!

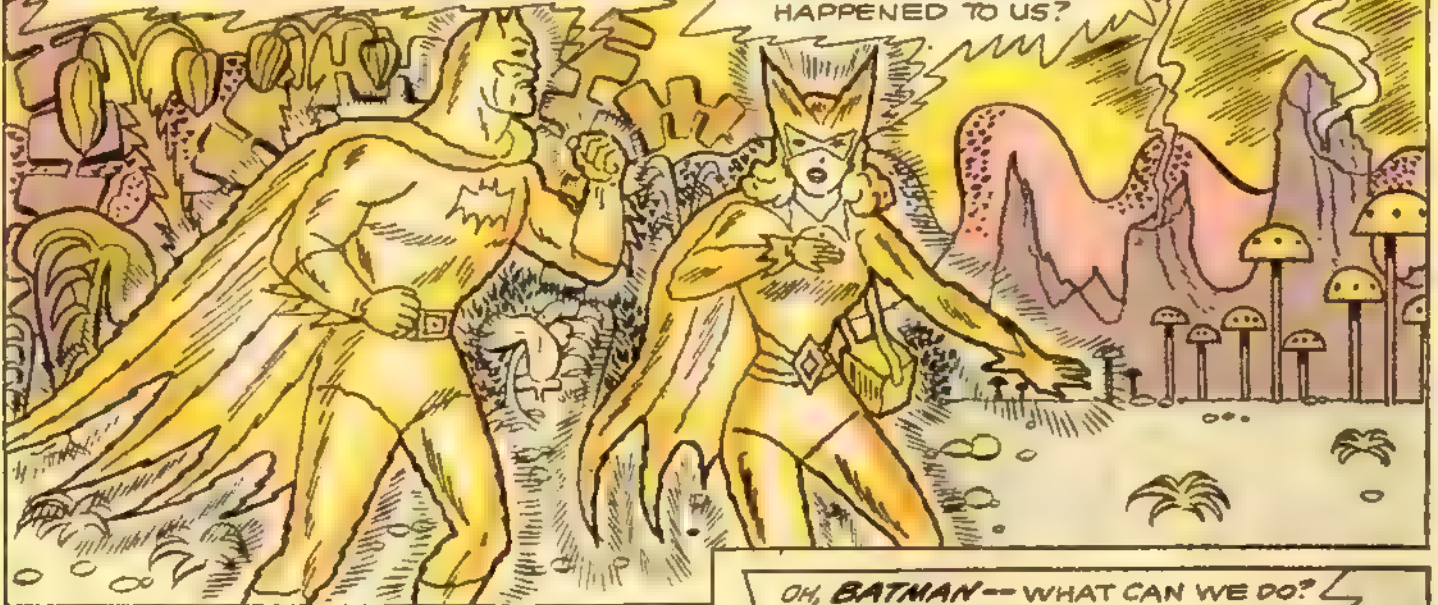




AT THAT MOMENT, SOMEWHERE ON A LAND BEYOND EARTH'S SPACE AND TIME...

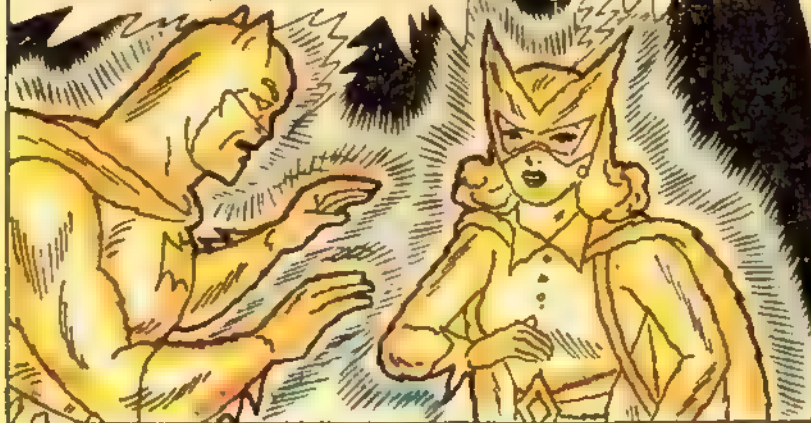
WH-WHAT? SOMEHOW WE'VE BEEN TRANSPORTED TO **ANOTHER WORLD!**

**BATMAN!** OUR FORMS HAVE CHANGED! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US?



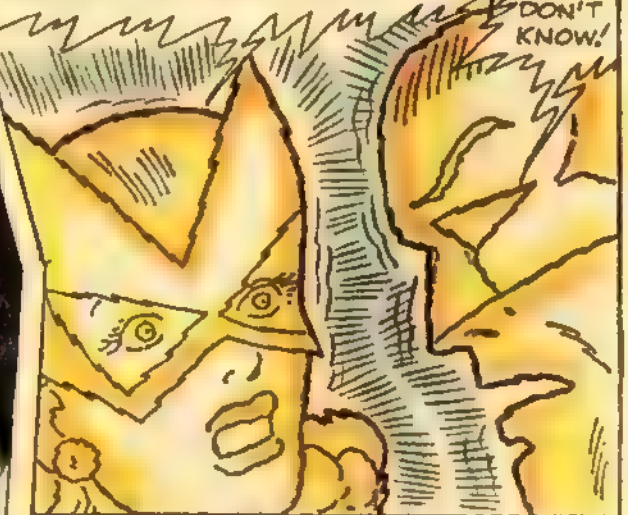
GREAT SCOTT! WE'VE BECOME **PURE ENERGY!** IN SOME FREAKISH WAY, THE ALIEN'S MACHINE FREED THE **ENERGY-FORCE** FROM OUR BODIES--AND TRANSMITTED US HERE! EACH OF US HAS SPLIT INTO **TWO BEINGS!**

TH-THEN THAT MEANS OUR BODIES--OUR FLESH-AND-BLOOD BODIES, ARE BACK ON **EARTH!**



OH, **BATMAN**-- WHAT CAN WE DO? WE'RE STRANDED ON A STRANGE WORLD! HOW CAN WE EVER GET BACK TO MERGE WITH OUR BODIES FAR AWAY ON EARTH?

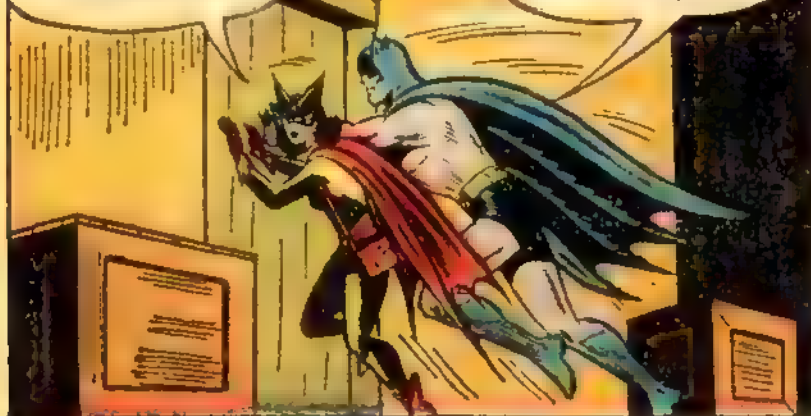
I-- I DON'T KNOW!



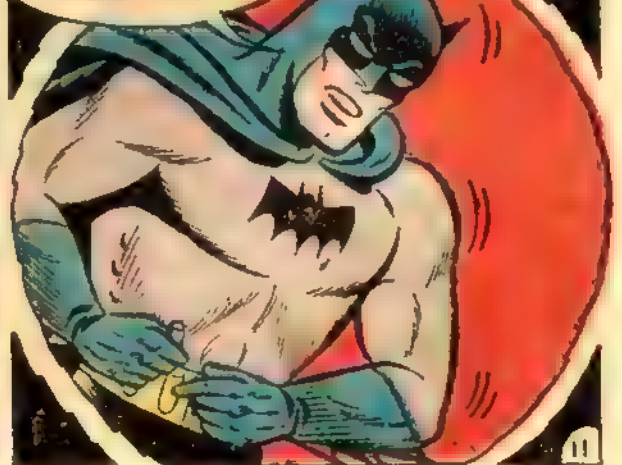
AND ON EARTH...

WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE-- WARN THE AUTHORITIES...

UH-HH! NO USE! CAN'T BUDGE THE DOOR! ALL MY STRENGTH IS GONE ...



WAIT! THE ALIEN DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT MY **UTILITY-BELT!** THIS VIAL OF ACID WILL DISSOLVE THE LOCK AND FREE US!

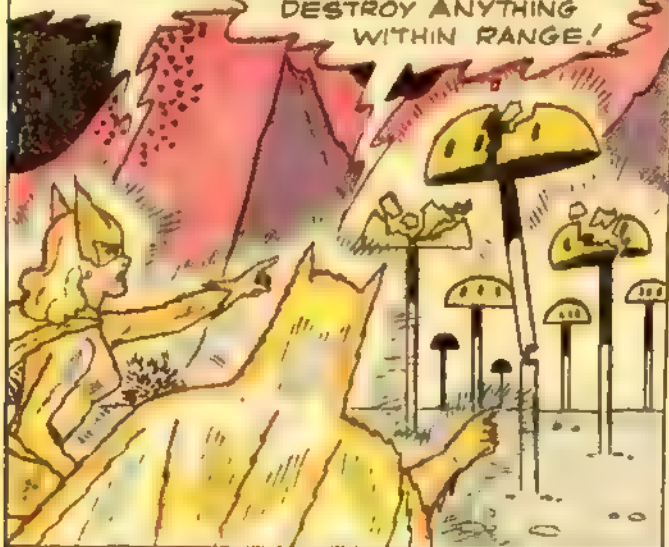




MEANWHILE, HOPING TO FIND HELP, THE ENERGY FORMS OF **BATMAN** AND **BATWOMAN** MOVE TOWARD THE ALIEN CITY, BUT...

**BATMAN**, THE BUILDINGS ARE SHATTERING!

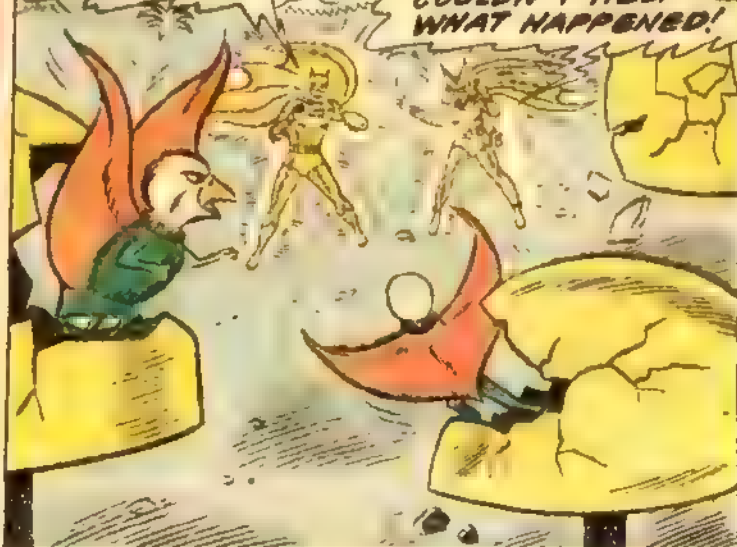
WE'RE THE CAUSE! OUR ENERGY-FORMS ARE EMITTING POWERFUL PULSES OF FORCE THAT DESTROY ANYTHING WITHIN RANGE!



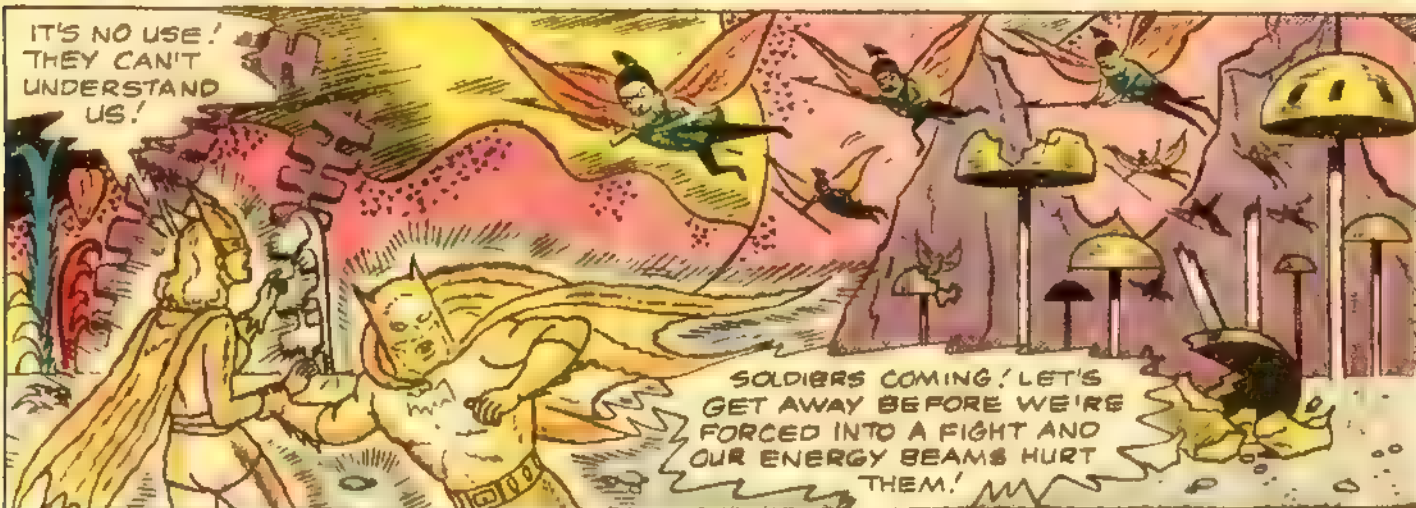
HORRIFIED BY THE CHAOS THEY HAVE UNWITTINGLY CAUSED, THE TWO **ENERGY-BEINGS** HASTILY RETREAT...

THE WINGED PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD! THEY THINK WE'RE INVADERS!

WE'VE GOT TO MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND! PLEASE, WE MEAN NO HARM! WE COULDN'T HELP WHAT HAPPENED!



IT'S NO USE! THEY CAN'T UNDERSTAND US!



SOLDIERS COMING! LET'S GET AWAY BEFORE WE'RE FORCED INTO A FIGHT AND OUR ENERGY BEAMS HURT THEM!

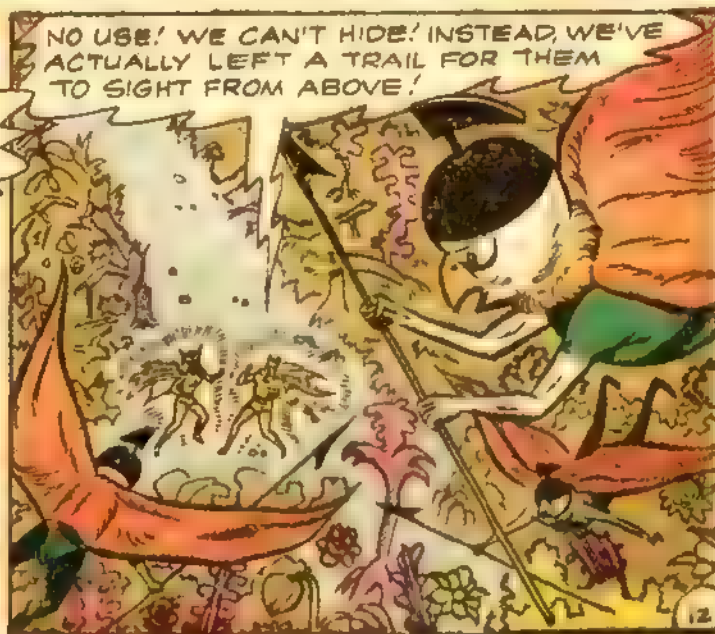
SEEKING REFUGE, **BATMAN** AND **BATWOMAN** PLUNGE INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE NEARBY WOODS, BUT...

GOOD HEAVENS!

OUR PULSES OF FORCE ARE SMASHING DOWN EVERYTHING AROUND US!



NO USE! WE CAN'T HIDE! INSTEAD, WE'VE ACTUALLY LEFT A TRAIL FOR THEM TO SIGHT FROM ABOVE!

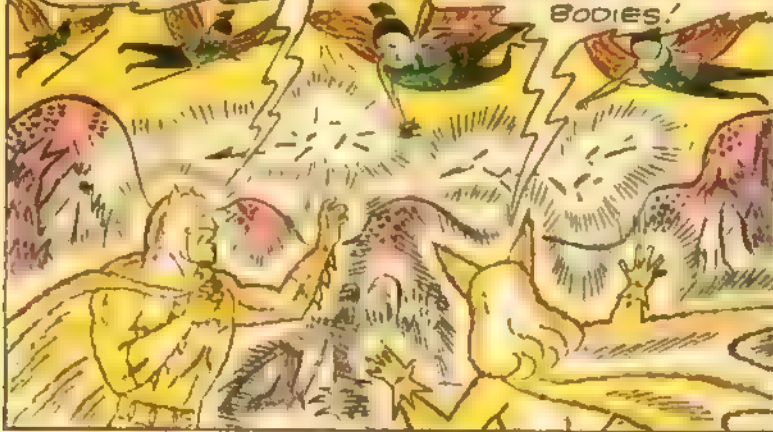




WARILY, THE WINGED PEOPLE KEEP BEYOND RANGE OF THE FORCE-PULSES--AND LAUNCH AN AERIAL ATTACK!

WE'RE SAFE ENOUGH! OUR AURAS OF FORCE ARE SHATTERING THEIR SPEARS!

OH, WHY CAN'T THEY UNDERSTAND THAT ALL WE WANT TO DO IS FIND A WAY BACK TO OUR OWN BODIES!



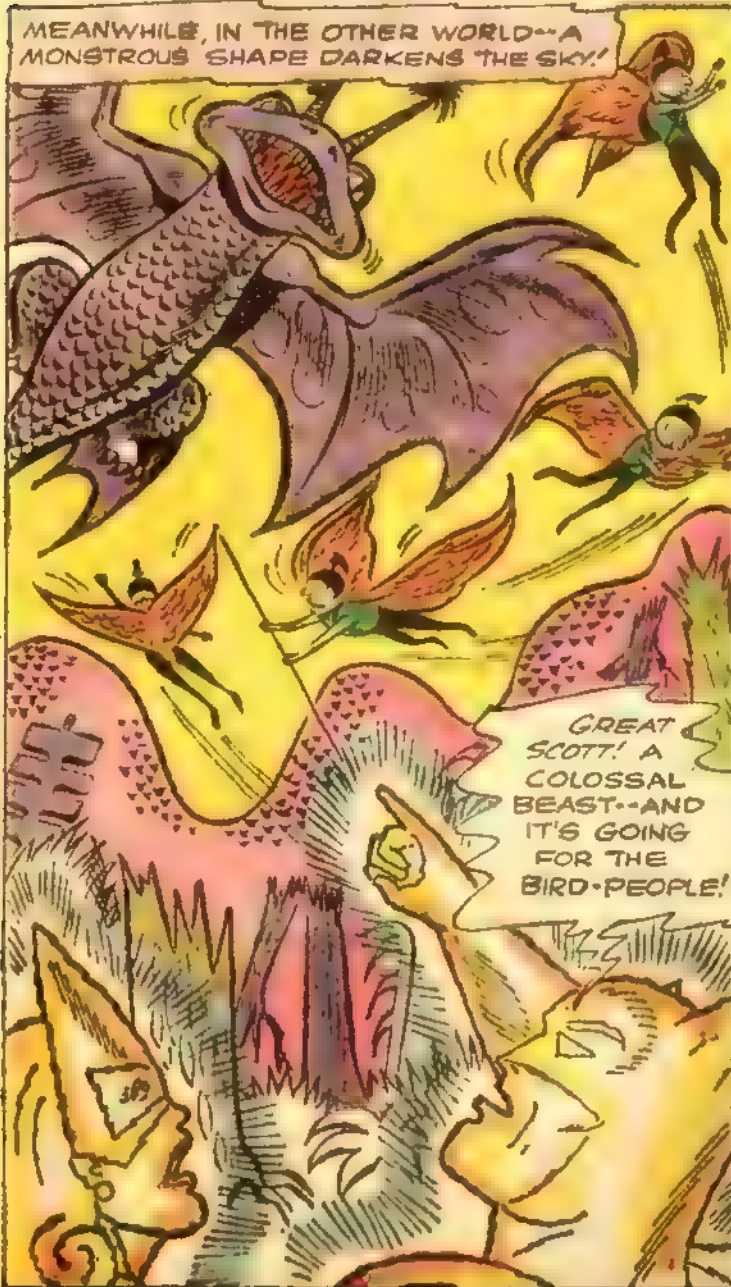
AND ON EARTH...

THE **TELEPORTER!** PERHAPS ITS POWER CAN PULL OUR ENERGY-SELVES BACK INTO OUR BODIES!

YOU'RE FORGETTING--WHEN THE ALIEN TURNED ITS POWER ON US A SECOND TIME, NOTHING HAPPENED! FIRST, WE MUST FIGURE OUT WHY IT WORKED ONLY ON **ROBIN** AND **BAT-GIRL**--AND NOT ON US!



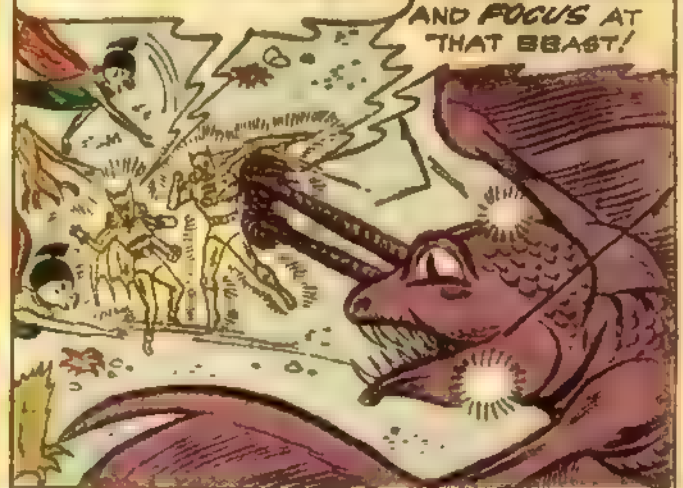
MEANWHILE, IN THE OTHER WORLD--A MONSTROUS SHAPE DARKENS THE SKY!



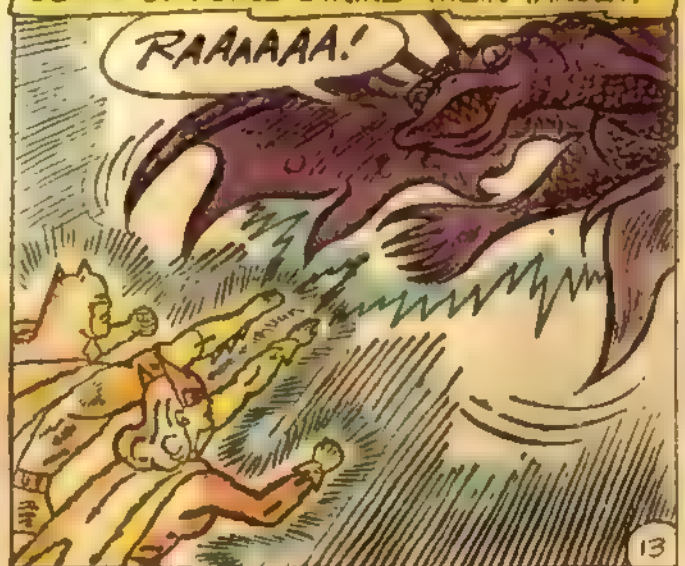
GREAT SCOTT! A COLOSSAL BEAST--AND IT'S GOING FOR THE BIRD-PEOPLE!

THEIR SPEARS ONLY BOUNCE OFF THAT BEAST'S HIDE! **BATMAN**, SOMEHOW WE'VE GOT TO HELP THOSE BRAVE BEINGS!

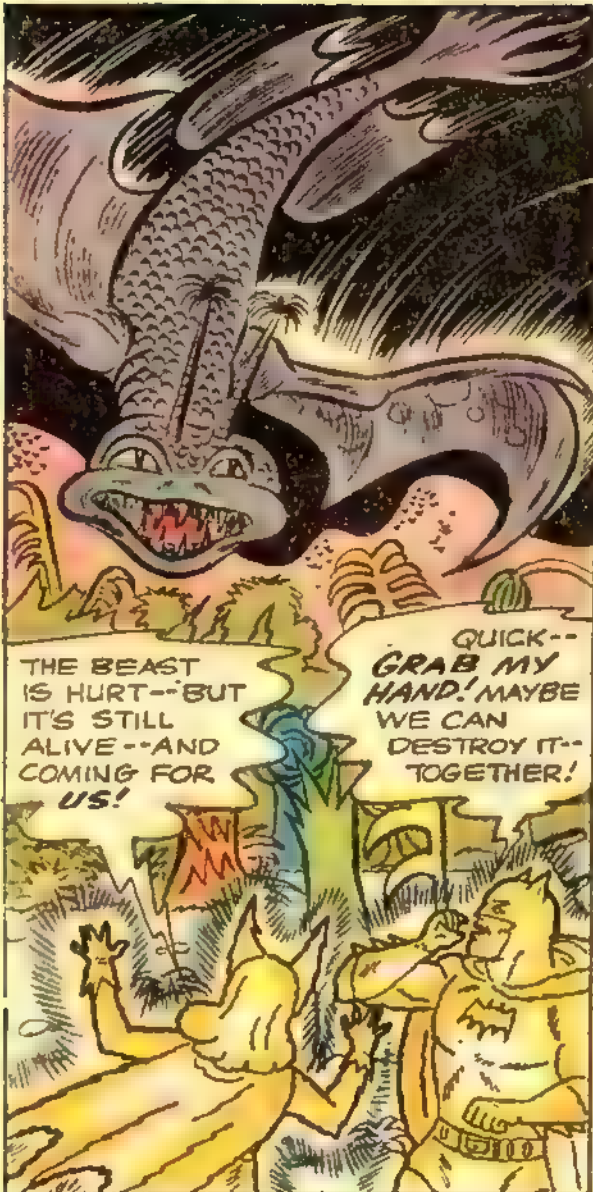
MAYBE IF WE CONCENTRATE OUR THOUGHTS, WE CAN CONTROL OUR ENERGIES--AND **FOCUS** AT THAT BEAST!



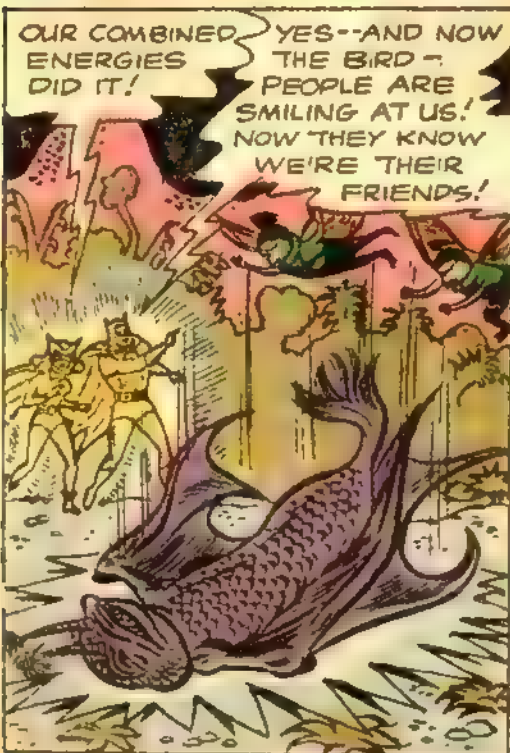
THE STRATEGY WORKS--AND TWO LENGTHENING BEAMS OF FORCE STRIKE THEIR TARGET!





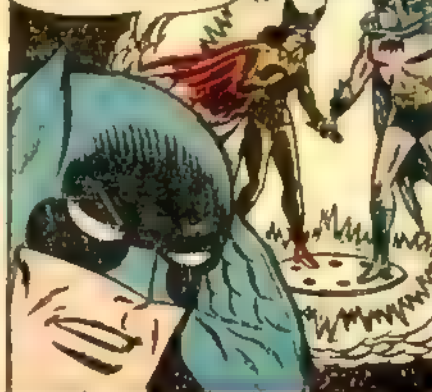


AS THEY GRASP HANDS AND CONCENTRATE, THEIR ENERGIES FLOW TOGETHER LIKE AN ELECTRICAL CURRENT--AND **ONE THUNDERBOLT OF FORCE** STABS AT THE WINGED COLOSSUS!



MEANWHILE, ON EARTH-- **BATMAN** PRODS HIS TRAINED MIND...

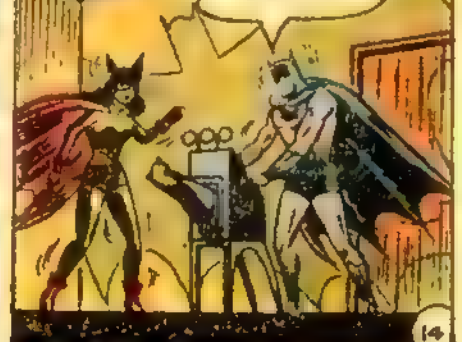
NOW I REMEMBER! **WE** WERE STANDING ON A **MANHOLE COVER**--BUT THE YOUNGSTERS WEREN'T! IT WAS THE **STEEL** MANHOLE COVER THAT CAUSED THE FREAK REACTION!



THEN, TO DRAW THE ENERGY-- FORCES BACK INTO OUR BODIES, WE HAVE TO REPEAT WHAT HAPPENED!

EXACTLY-- BUT WE'LL HAVE TO TURN THE **TELE-PORTER'S** POWER TO **REVERSE!**

COME ON, BETWEEN US, WE HAVE JUST ENOUGH STRENGTH LEFT TO CARRY THIS MACHINE TO THAT MANHOLE COVER!





AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE ALIEN WORLD...

ODD! THE BIRD-PEOPLE ARE BECKONING! THEY SEEM TO BE IMPLORING US TO COME AWAY FROM THE BEAST'S BODY!

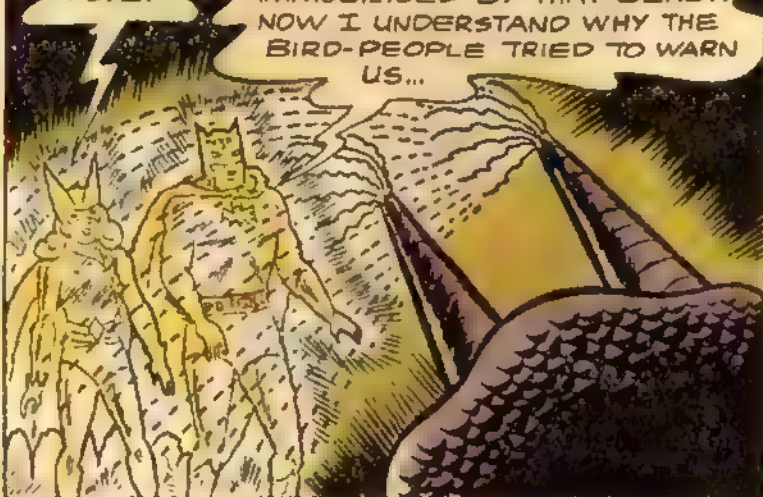
BUT WHY? THE BEAST CAN'T HARM US NOW THAT IT'S DYING!



THEN, SOMETHING INCREDIBLE HAPPENS...

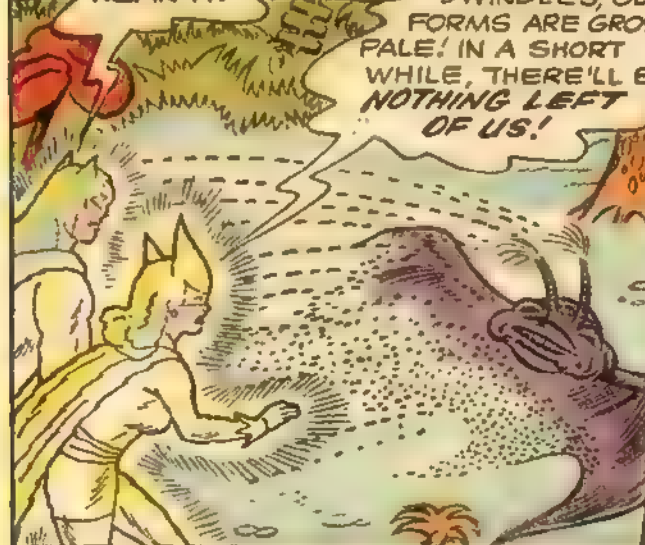
BATMAN-- I--I CAN'T MOVE!

NEITHER CAN I! GREAT SCOTT! OUR ENERGY FORMS ARE IMMOBILIZED BY THAT BEAST! NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY THE BIRD-PEOPLE TRIED TO WARN US...



APPARENTLY, AS THIS PECULIAR BEAST DIES, ITS BODY ABSORBS ALL ENERGY NEAR IT!

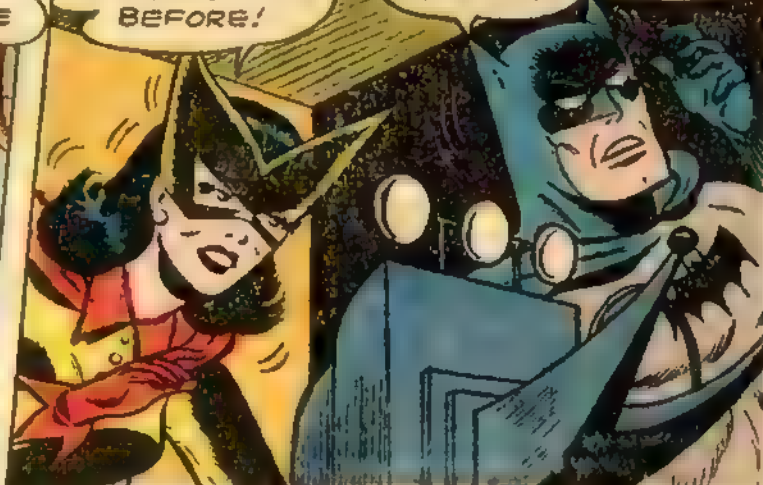
BATMAN! AS OUR ENERGY DWINDLES, OUR FORMS ARE GROWING PALE! IN A SHORT WHILE, THERE'LL BE NOTHING LEFT OF US!



AND ON EARTH...

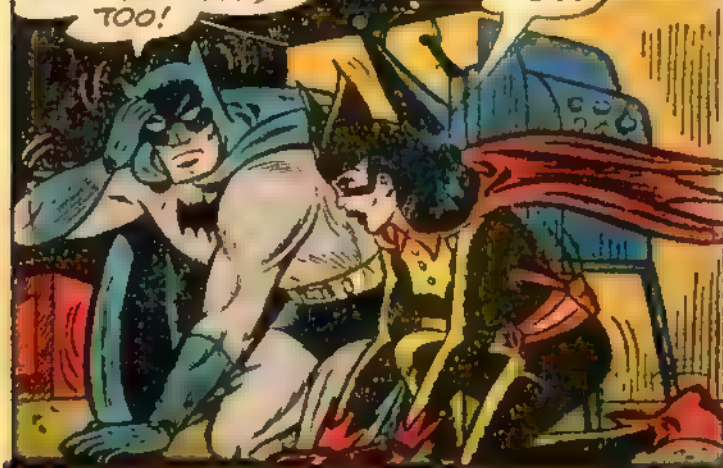
NOW WE CAN'T LIFT THE MACHINE! WE'RE EVEN WEAKER THAN BEFORE!

SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO OUR OTHER SELVES! THEIR ENERGIES ARE EBBING AWAY--AND AS THEY GET WEAKER, SO DO WE!

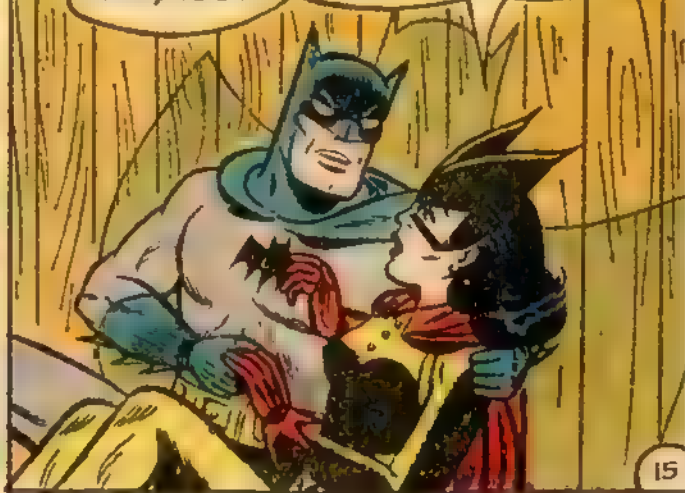


OUR OTHER SELVES ARE OUR LIFE-FORCES! THEY'RE DYING-- AND WHEN THEY ARE DEAD, WE WILL BE DEAD, TOO!

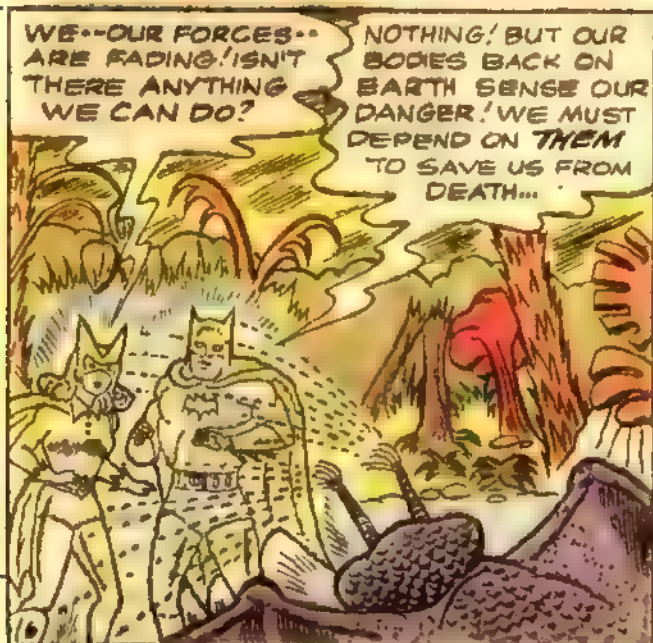
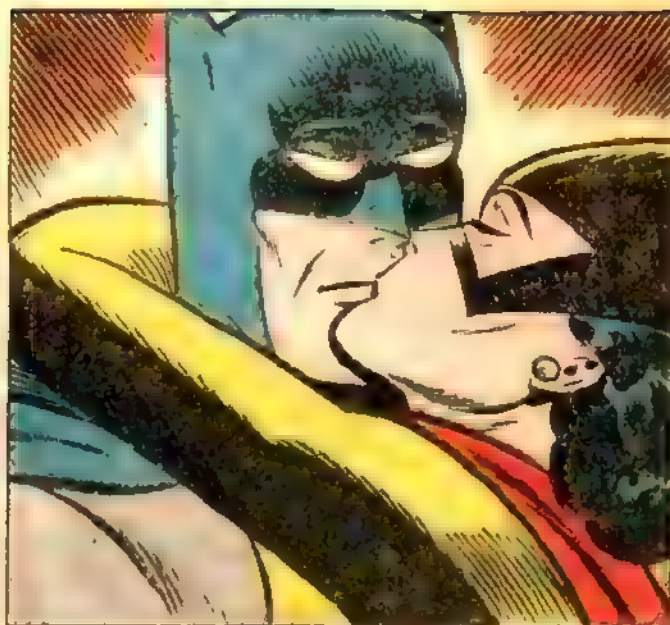
NOW WE CAN NEVER UNITE WITH OUR OTHER SELVES! OH, BATMAN--EVERYTHING'S OVER FOR US!



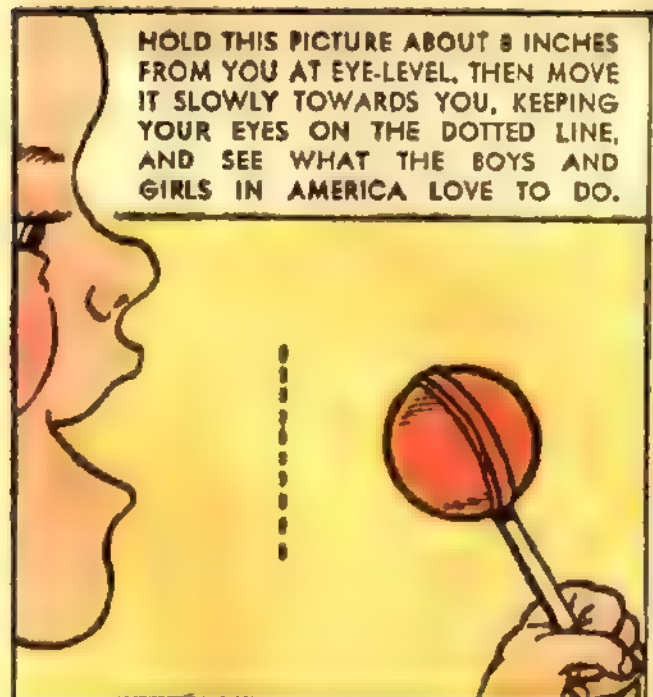
HOLD ME CLOSE! IF I MUST DIE, I WANT IT TO BE IN YOUR ARMS! OH, BATMAN, YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU--DYING WOULDN'T BE SO BAD, IF I KNEW YOU LOVED ME, TOO...







ADVERTISEMENT





## CHAPTER 3

# BATMAN

With  
**ROBIN**  
THE BOY WONDER

THE TWIN BEINGS THAT ARE **BATMAN** AND **BATWOMAN** ARE NEAR DEATH-- BUT WHAT OF **BAT-GIRL** AND **ROBIN**? WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEM? THEY ARE IN YET **ANOTHER** WORLD-- MENACED BY WOULD-BE CONQUERORS! AND ONLY AFTER A FANTASTIC ADVENTURE CAN THE TWO BRAVE YOUNGSTERS UNITE WITH **BATMAN** AND **BATWOMAN** TO DEFEAT THE DANGER FROM THE...

## DIMENSION OF DOOM

THERE THEY ARE! WE'VE GOT THEM TRAPPED!

WE'VE GOT JUST ONE CHANCE, **BAT-GIRL**! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!







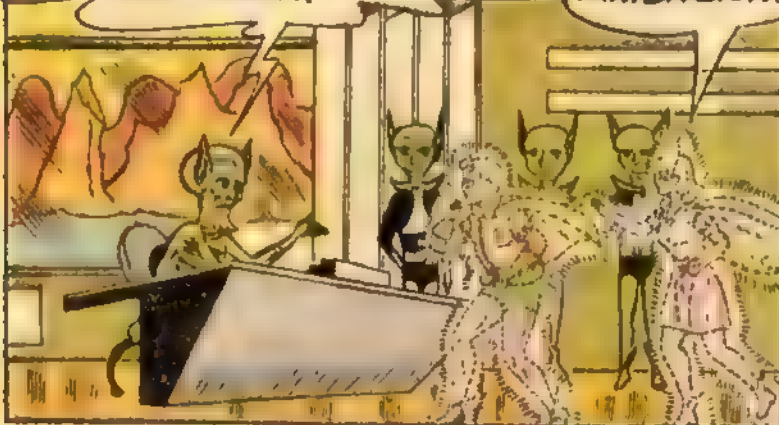
# BATMAN



MEANWHILE--WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO **BAT-GIRL** AND **ROBIN**?

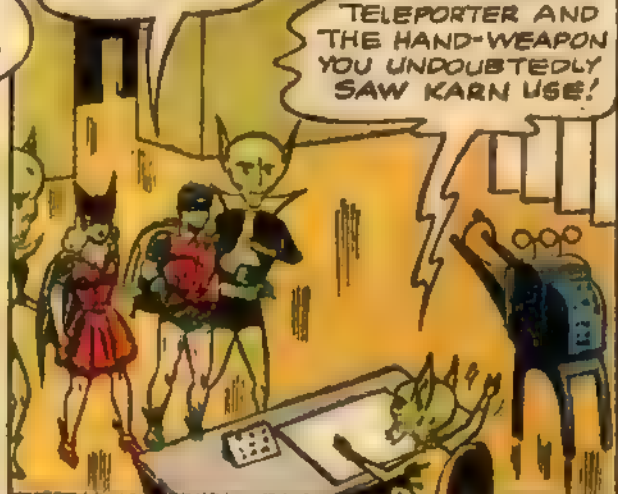
TWO STRANGE BEINGS--MATERIALIZING 'OBVIOUSLY KARN TELEPORTED THEM TO OUR DIMENSION--TO KEEP THEM FROM INTERFERING WITH HIS SEARCH FOR **VAUX**!

**ROBIN**--DID YOU HEAR? THIS IS THE **ALIEN'S DIMENSION**!



WHO ARE YOU? WE KNOW KARN IS AFTER **VAUX**--OR **SILVER**, AS WE CALL IT-- BUT WHY?

I AM **ZEBO**--A SCIENTIST! IT IS I WHO INVENTED THE DIMENSIONAL-TELEPORTER AND THE HAND-WEAPON YOU UNDOUBTEDLY SAW KARN USE!



**VAUX** IS VERY RARE IN OUR WORLD--BUT ONLY **VAUX** CAN POWER THE HAND-WEAPON I INVENTED! LUCKILY I HAD TO SEND HIM INTO YOUR DIMENSION TO SEARCH FOR MORE TO BE ABLE TO POWER THIS!

A REPLICA OF KARN'S WEAPON--BUT IT'S AS BIG AS A CANNON!



MY SECRET WEAPON! WAR HAS BEEN OUTLAWED IN OUR WORLD FOR CENTURIES, SO THE PRESIDENT'S ARMY HAS ONLY TOKEN WEAPONS! WHEN KARN BRINGS **VAUX** BACK TO POWER MY **DISINTEGRATOR-CANNON**, I'LL DESTROY THE PRESIDENT'S MEAGER ARMY--AND MAKE MYSELF **DICTATOR**!



UHH...WOULD ANYONE MIND IF I PUT ON A LITTLE LIPSTICK?

'HA, HA,' A FEMALE IS THE SAME IN ANY WORLD! WHEN FACING A PROBLEM, SHE ALWAYS RESORTS TO POWDERING HER NOSE OR PUTTING ON FRESH LIPSTICK!



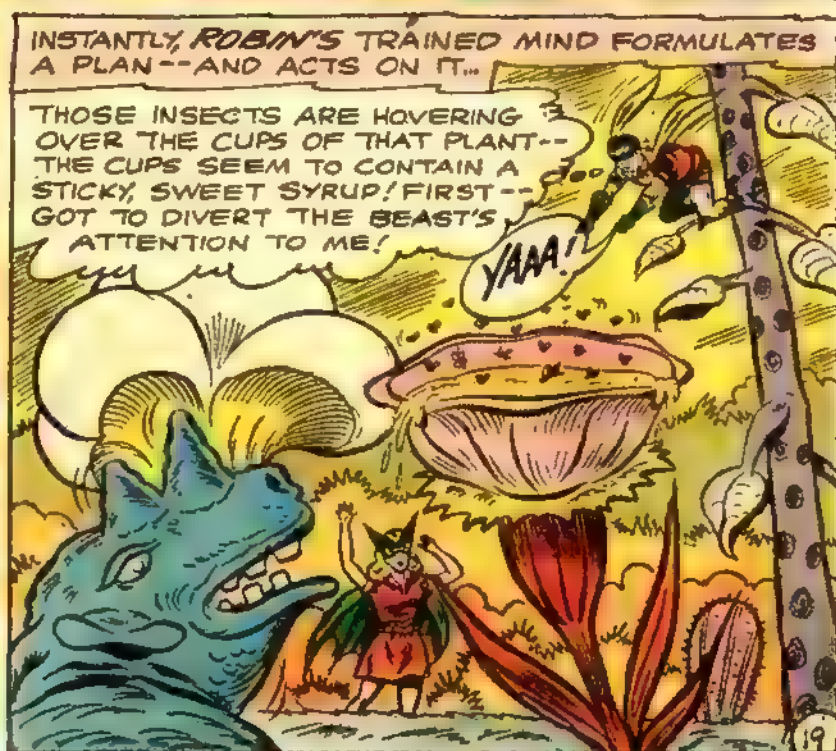
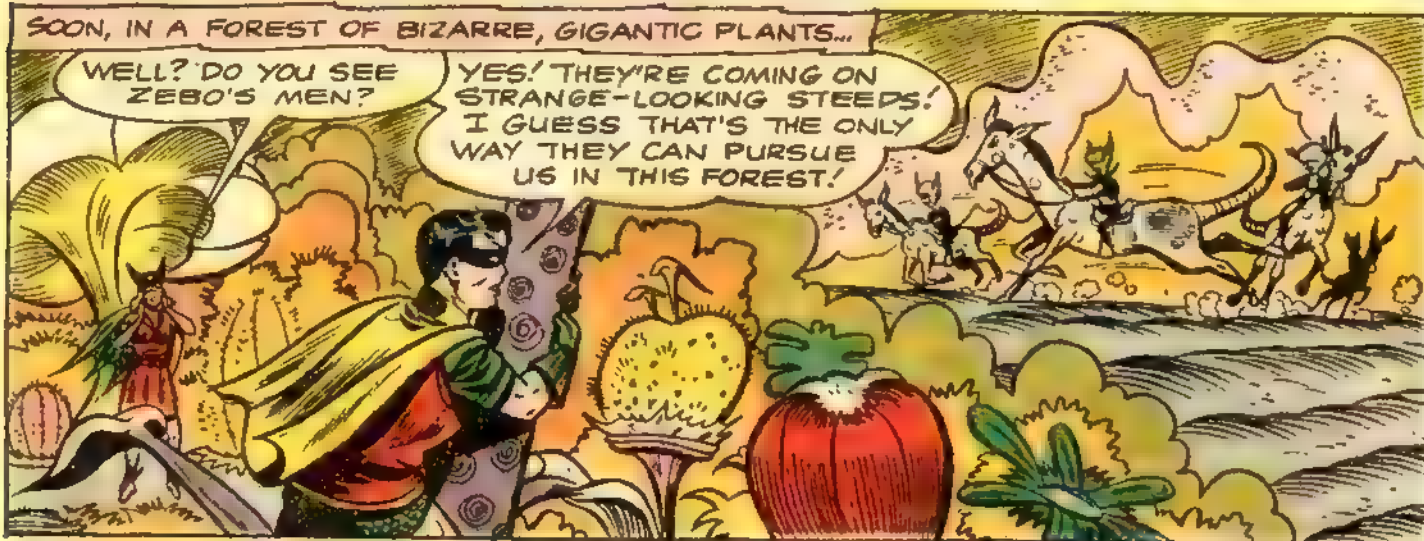
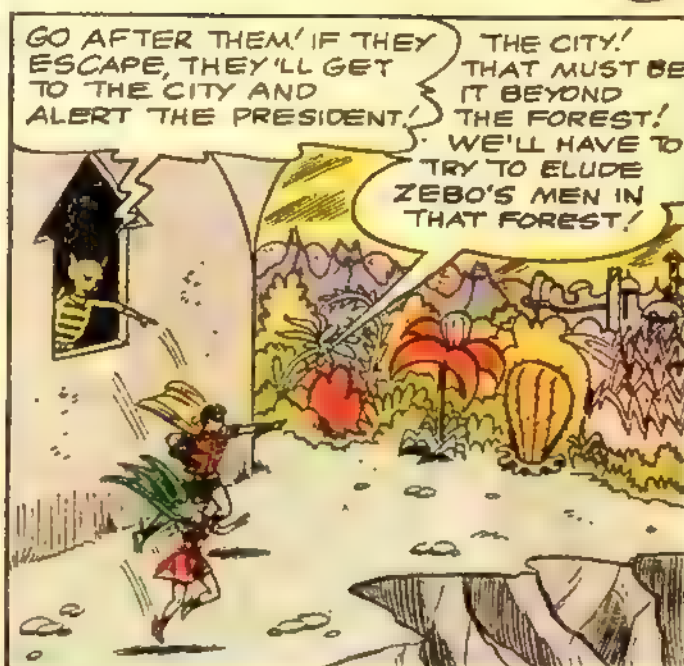
BUT THE "LIPSTICK" FROM **BAT-GIRL'S CRIME-CONTACT** IS GIMMICKED--AND AS SHE PRESSES A SECRET TRIGGER...

**ROBIN!** DUCK!

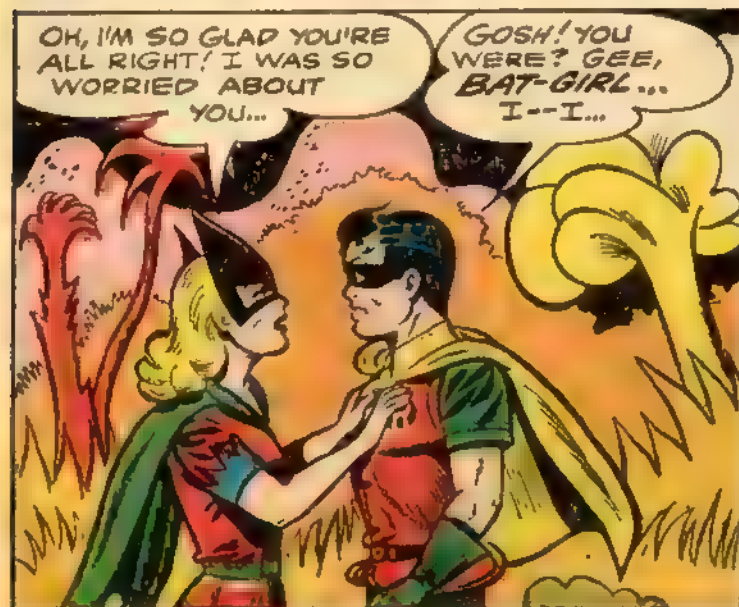
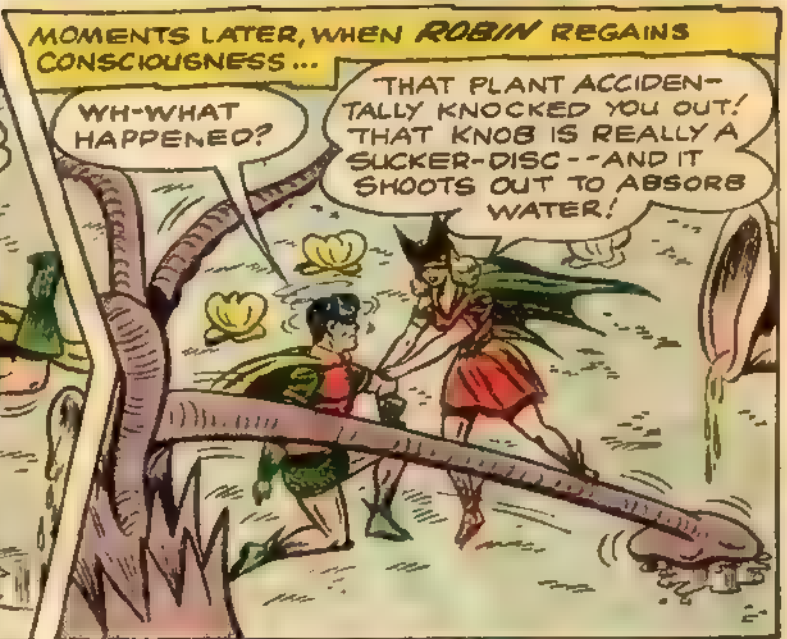
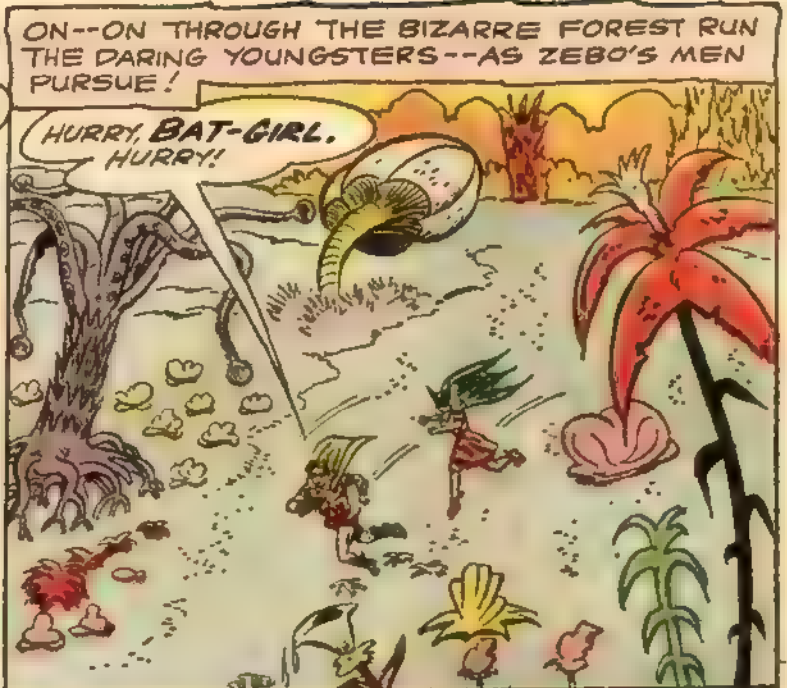
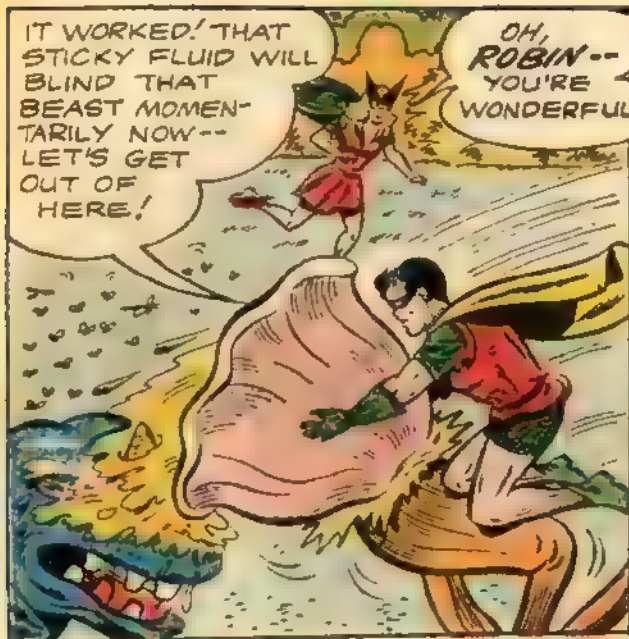
WHAT...? IT'S SHOOTING OUT TENDRILS OF WIRE--ENTANGLING US!















# BATMAN



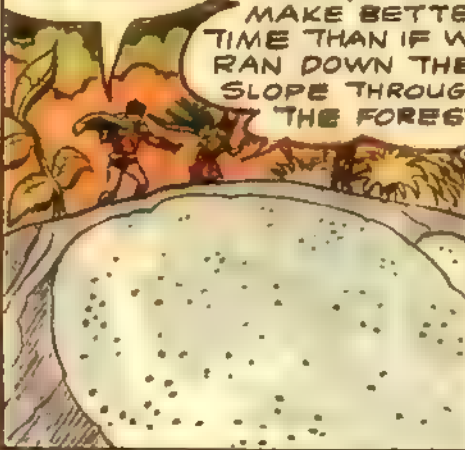
HOOF BEATS! ZEBOS MEN ARE GETTING CLOSER!



RUSHING ONWARD, THEY SUDDENLY COME UPON A GLITTERING EXPANSE...

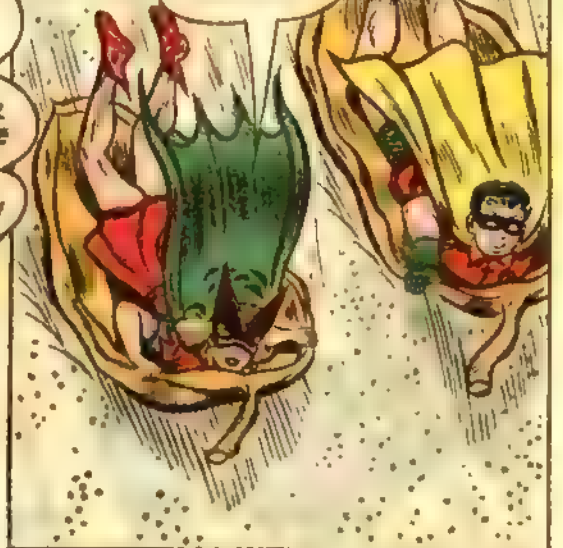
A FIELD OF MICA CRYSTALS. THAT STUFF IS AS SLIPPERY AS SNOW!

SAY-IF WE COULD TOBOGGAN DOWN THAT MICA, WE'D MAKE BETTER TIME THAN IF WE RAN DOWN THE SLOPE THROUGH THE FOREST!



MINUTES LATER...

NOT BAD, EH? THESE BIG LEAVES MAKE GREAT SLEDS!



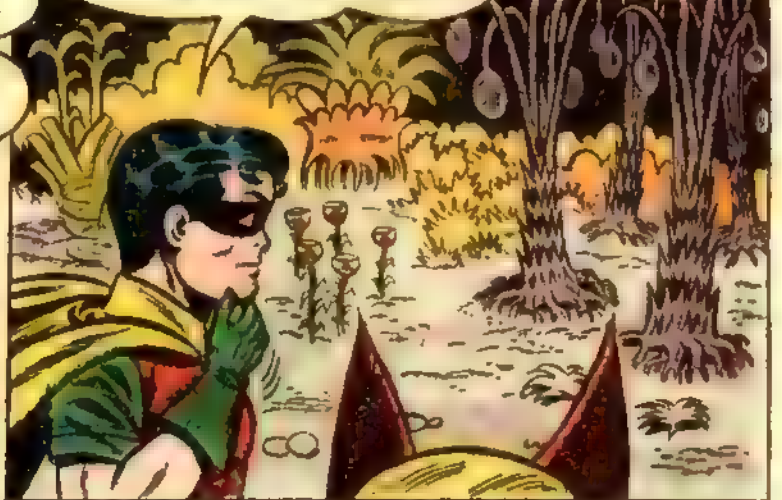
BUT SHORTLY AFTER...

OH, NO! A LAKE! WE COULD NEVER SWIM ACROSS FAST ENOUGH--AND IF WE CIRCLE AROUND IT THROUGH THE FOREST, ZEBOS MEN WILL CATCH UP TO US!

CLOP CLOP CLOP



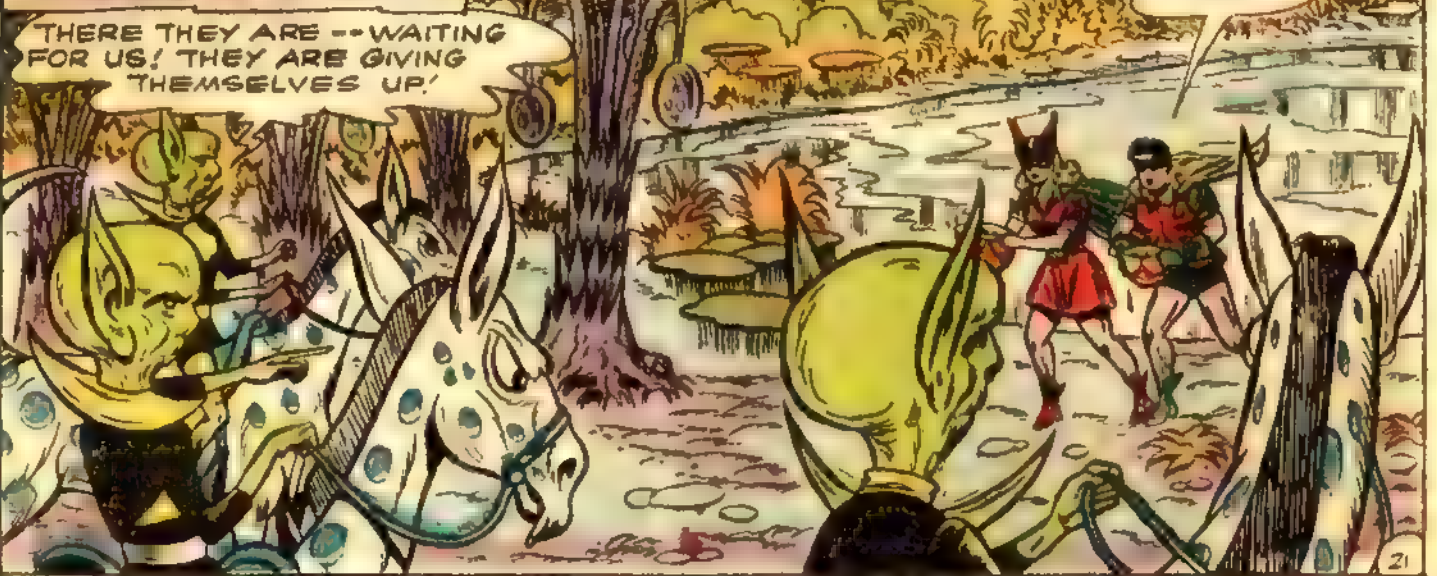
HMM! A LAKE IN FRONT--AND THOSE WATER-SUCKING PLANTS BEHIND US! I'VE GOT AN IDEA...



THE YOUNGSTERS WORK SWIFTLY--THEN WAIT FOR THEIR PURSUERS TO CLOSE IN!

THERE THEY ARE --WAITING FOR US! THEY ARE GIVING THEMSELVES UP!

OKAY, BAT-GIRL--NOW!







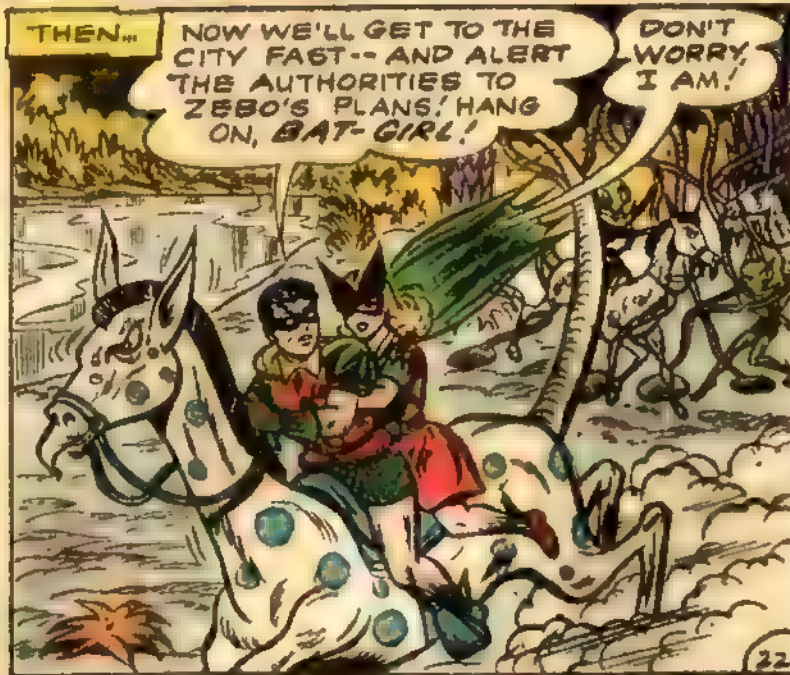
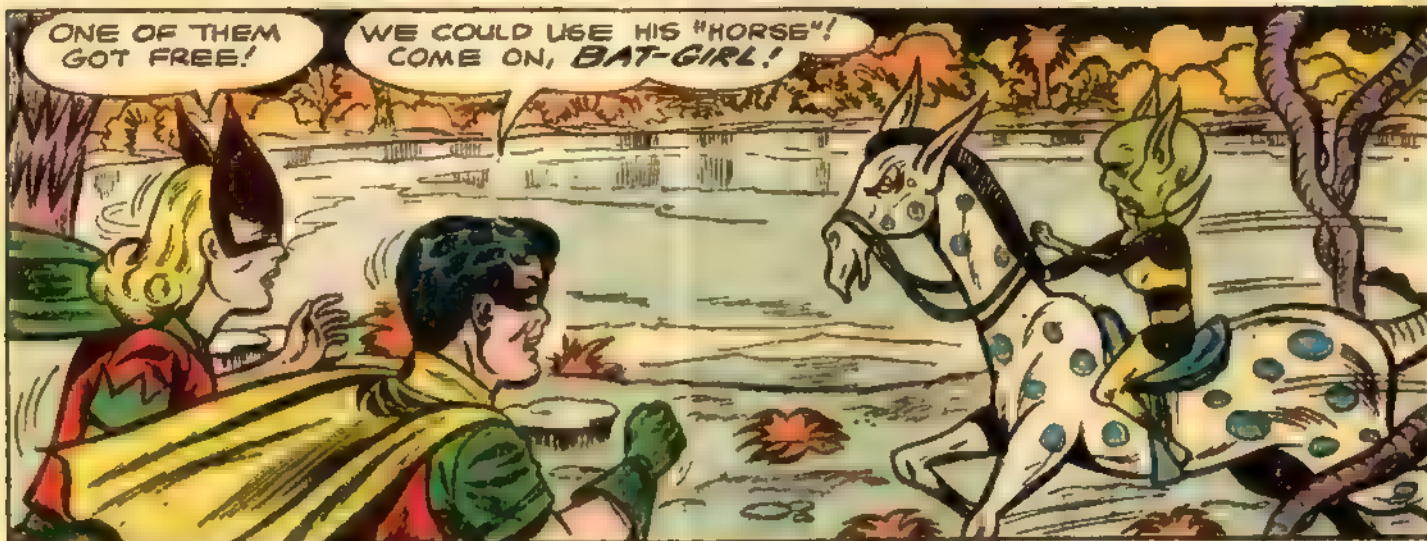
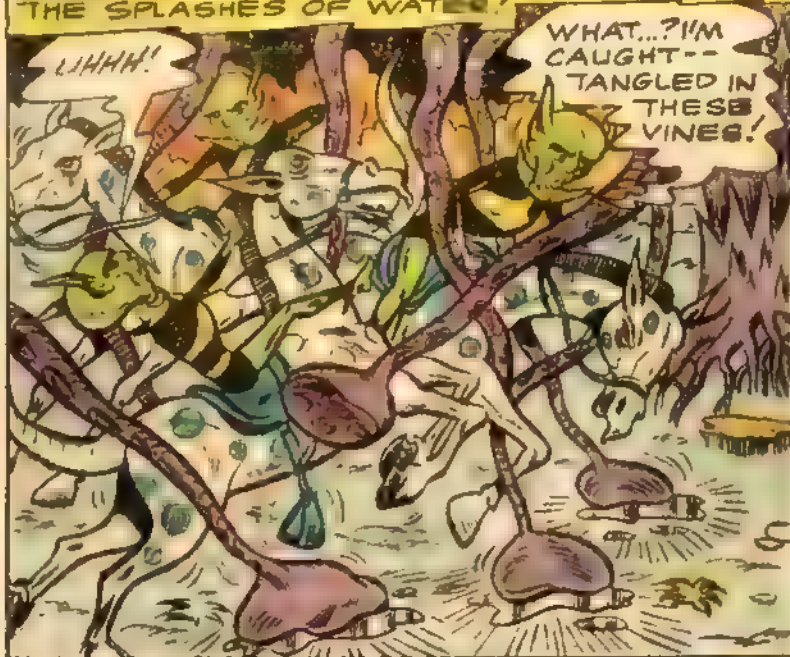
# BATMAN



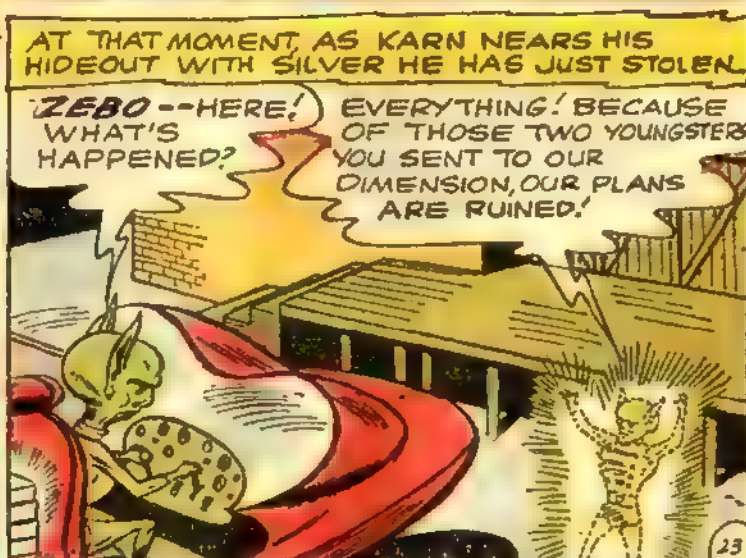
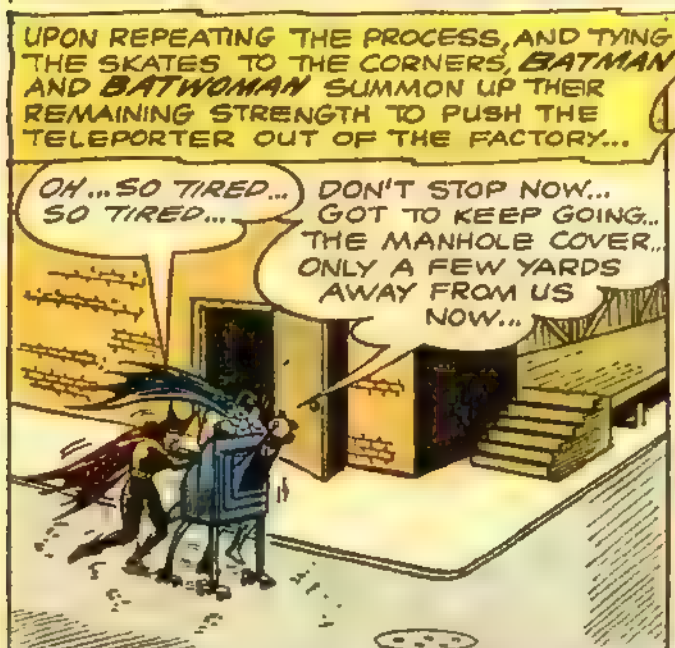
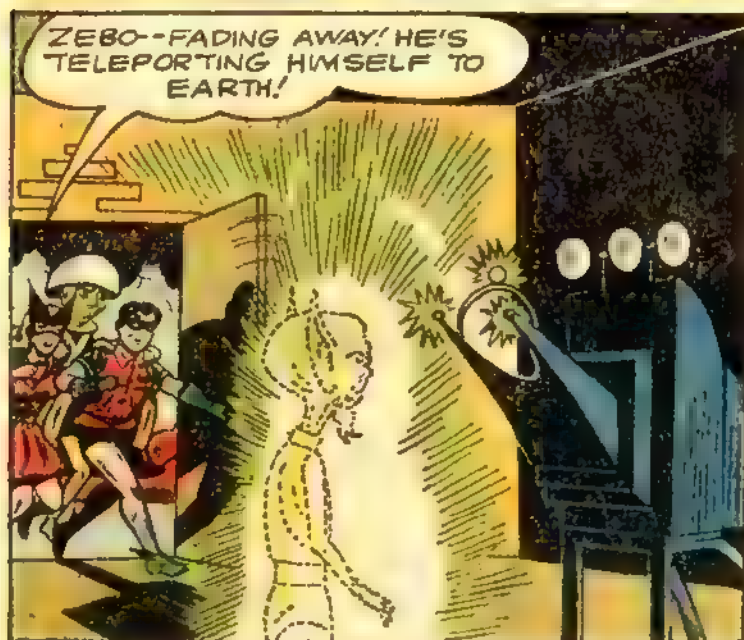
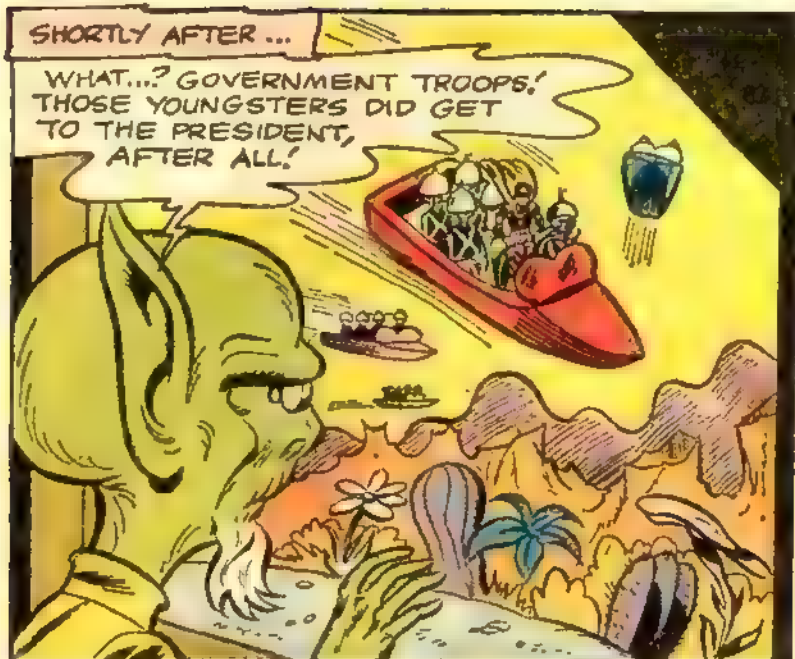
INSTANTLY THE YOUNGSTERS HURL WATER-FILLED PLANT CUPS FORWARD...



...AND THE GREEDY SUCKER-DISCS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE GROVE, SHOOT OUT TOWARD THE SPLASHES OF WATER!





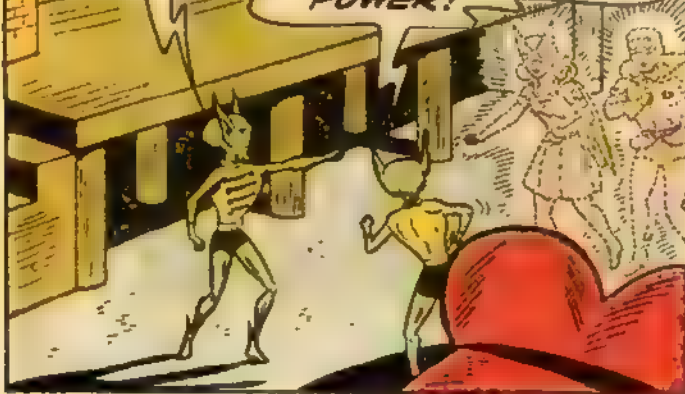




AS ZEBO EXPLAINS, SUDDENLY...

LOOK! THEY FOLLOWED ME HERE! DISINTEGRATE THEM!

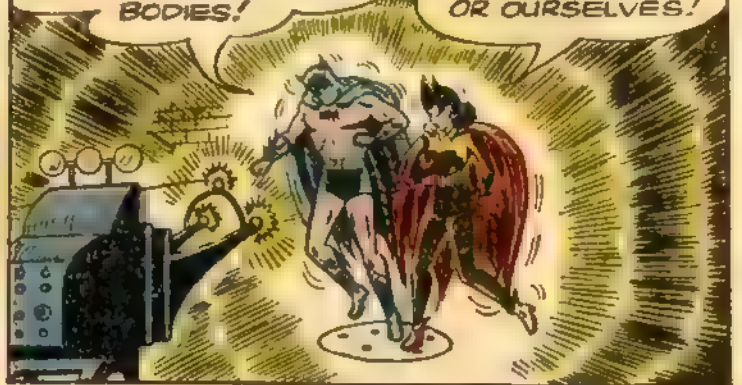
GLADLY! PREVIOUSLY, I WANTED TO CONSERVE THE WEAPON'S POWER, AND THEREFORE WAS MERCIFUL--BUT NOW I WILL TURN IT TO FULL POWER!



AT THAT INSTANT, HEARING THE MENACING VOICES AROUND THE CORNER--BATMAN AND BATWOMAN ACT QUICKLY!

I'VE TURNED THE TELE-PORTER'S POWER TO REVERSE! LET'S HOPE THE ENERGY-FORCES WILL RETURN TO OUR BODIES!

IF NOT, WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SAVE BAT-GIRL AND ROBIN--OR OURSELVES!



IN THAT SPLIT-INSTANT, ON THE OTHER WORLD...

BATMAN--SOME POWER IS TUGGING AT ME!

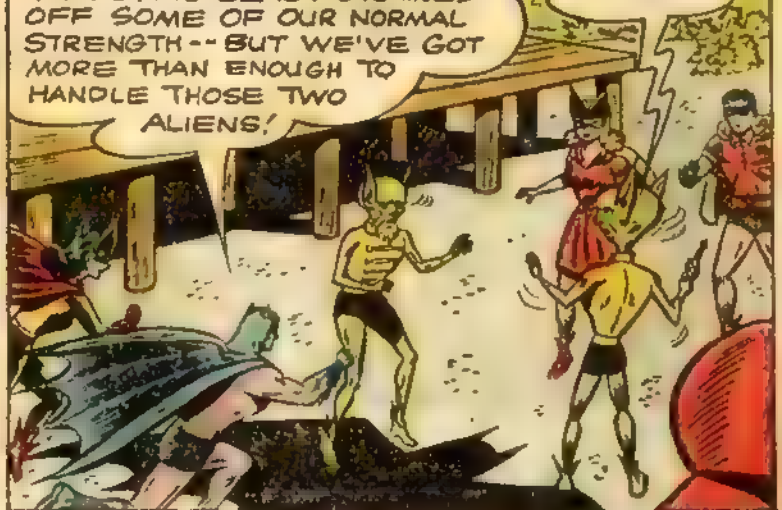
WE'RE SAVED! WE'RE GOING BACK! WE'RE GOING BACK!



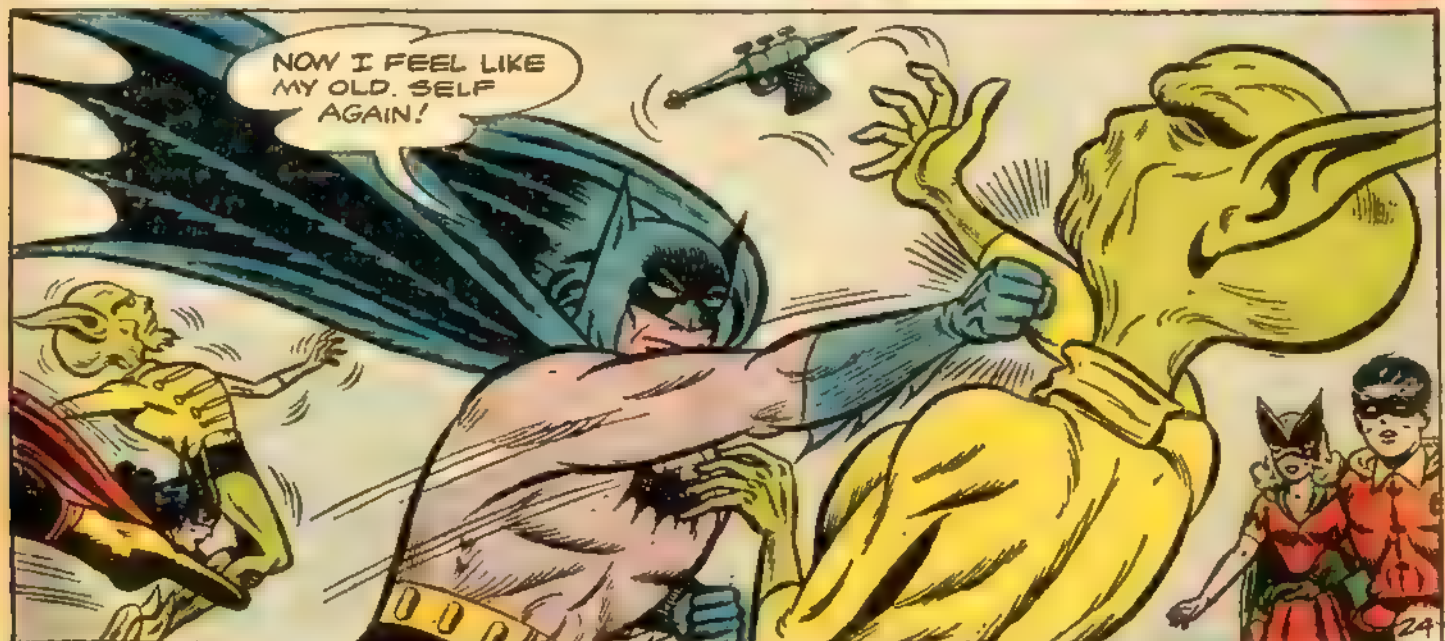
AND, SUDDENLY, ON EARTH, BATMAN AND BATWOMAN ARE REVITALIZED--COMPLETE BEINGS AGAIN!

THAT DYING BEAST DRAINED OFF SOME OF OUR NORMAL STRENGTH--BUT WE'VE GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH TO HANDLE THOSE TWO ALIENS!

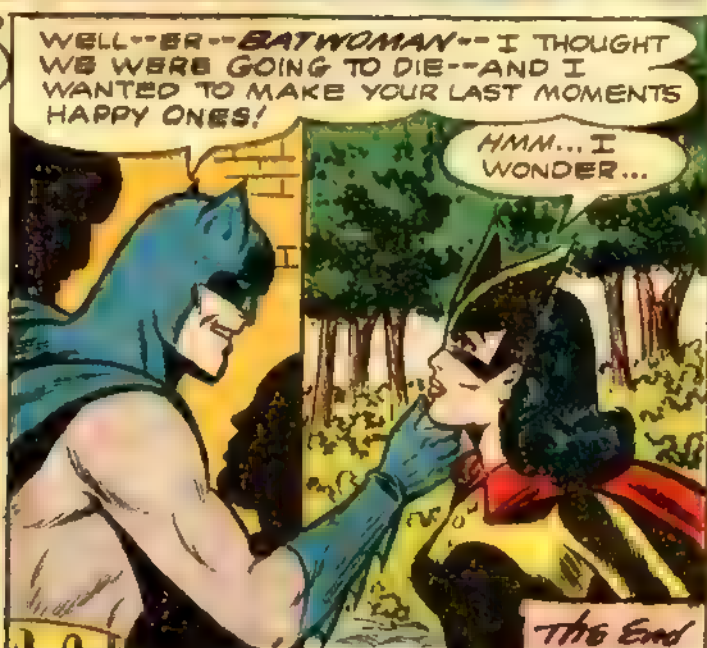
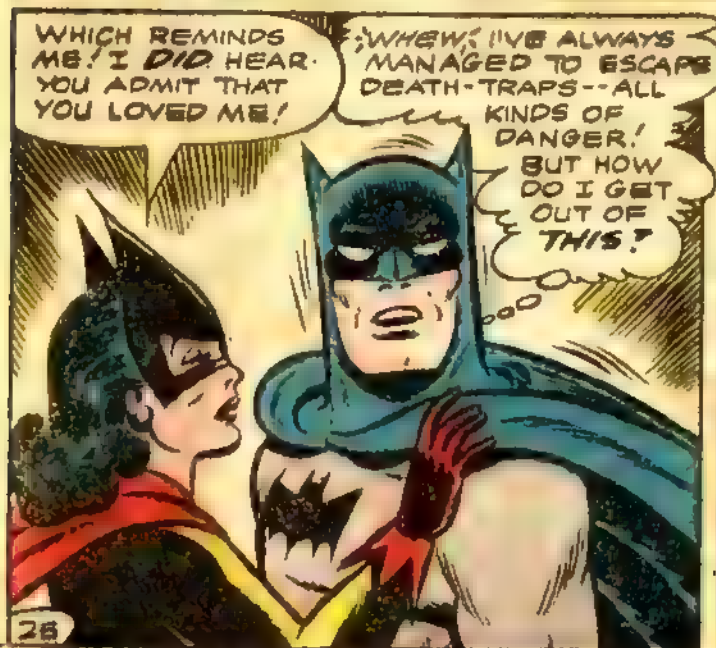
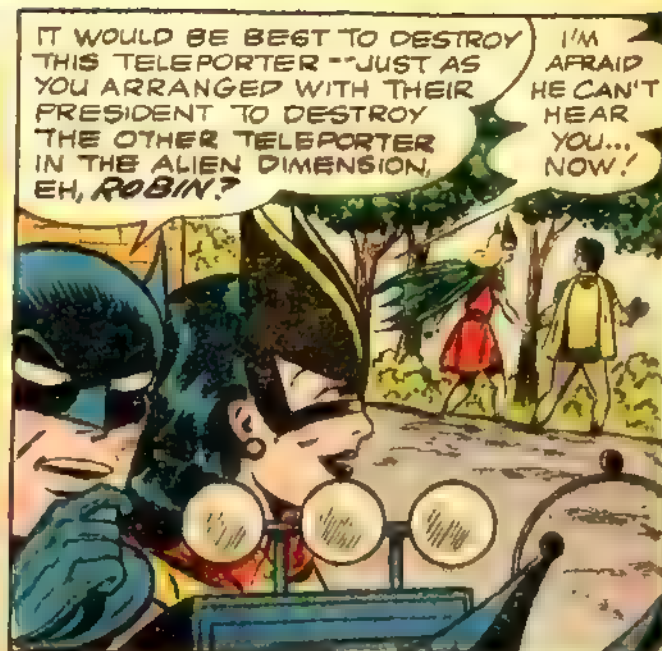
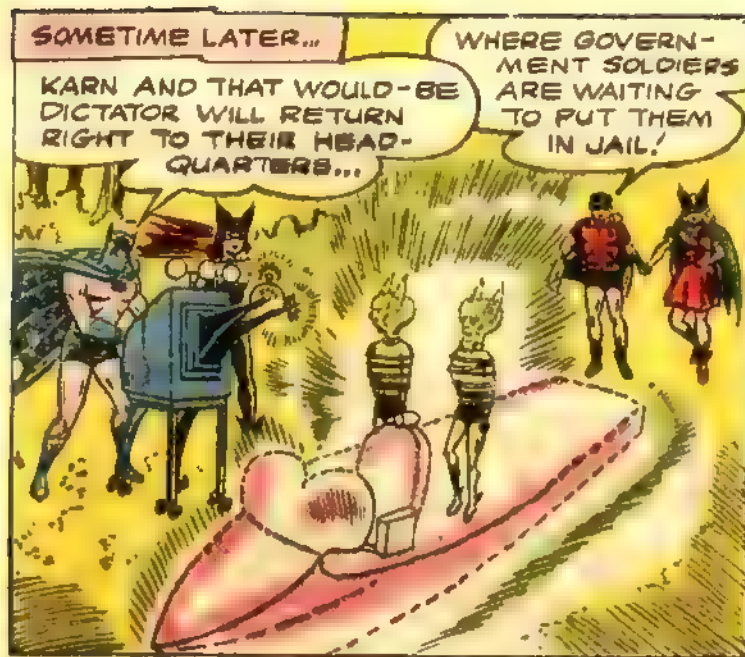
WHAT...?



NOW I FEEL LIKE MY OLD SELF AGAIN!







STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, JULY 2, 1946 AND JUNE 11, 1960 (74 STAT. 208) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF BATMAN, published 8 times yearly at Sparte, Illinois for October 1, 1962.

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J. S. Liebowitz, Business Manager

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of September, 1962.

Daniel Epstein, Notary Public

(My commission expires March 30, 1963)





12¢

# BATMAN

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COMICS  
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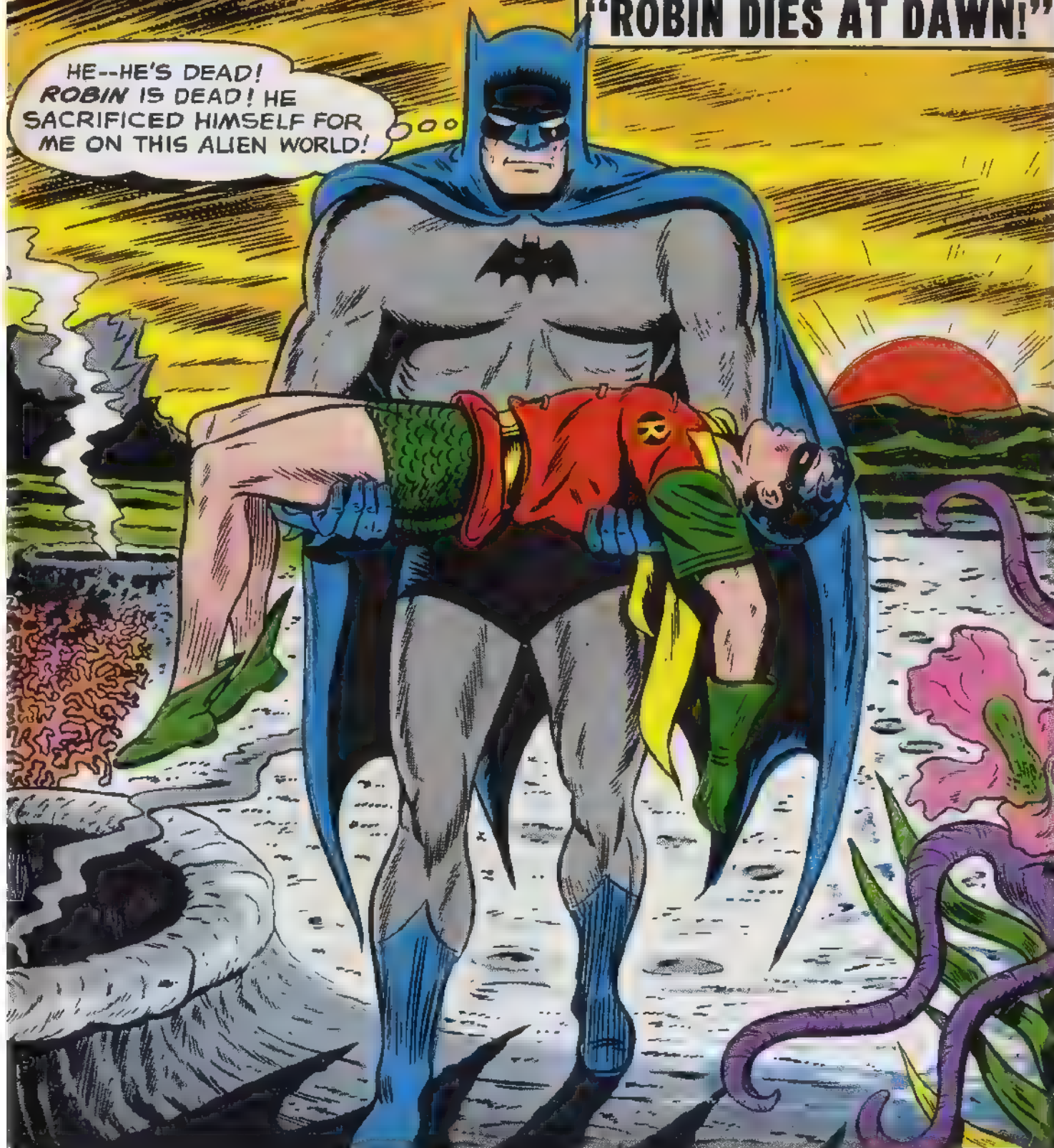


AUTHORITY

JUNE  
NO. 156

A sensational 2-part adventure--  
**"ROBIN DIES AT DAWN!"**

HE--HE'S DEAD!  
ROBIN IS DEAD! HE  
SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR  
ME ON THIS ALIEN WORLD!



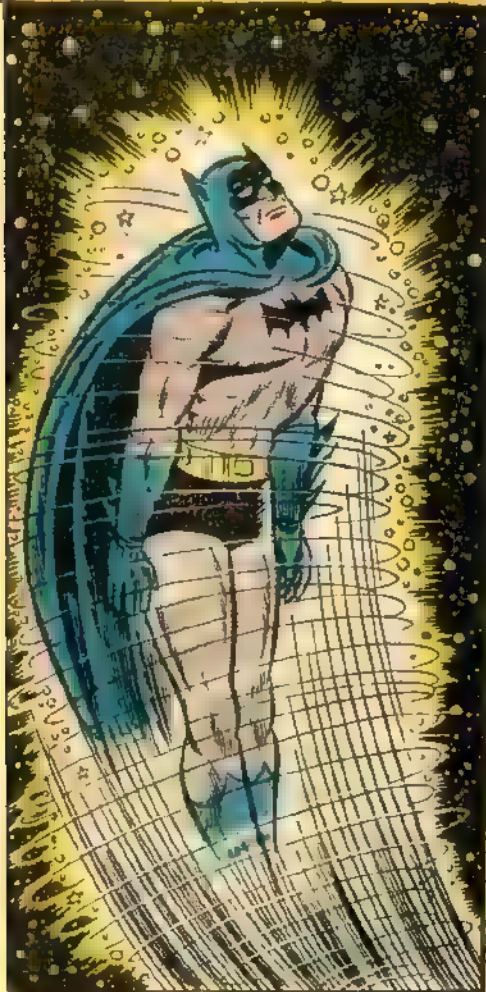


# BATMAN



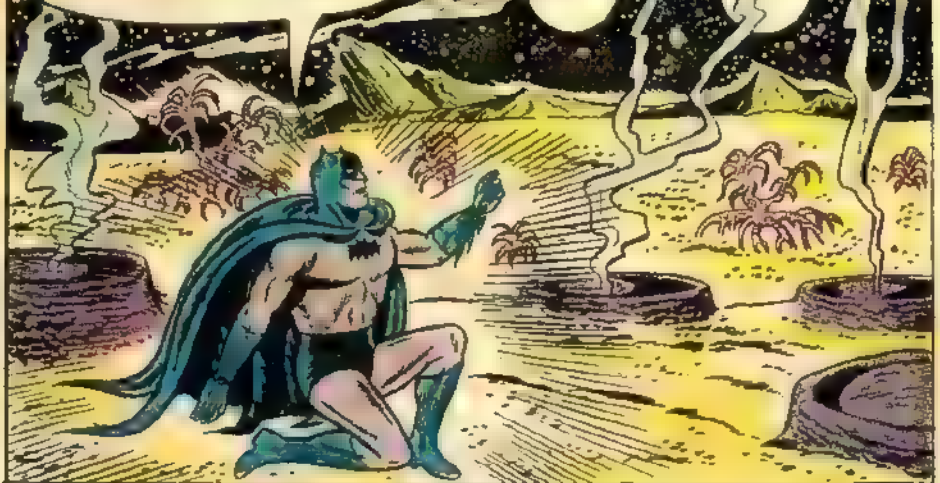
"WHERE IS BATMAN?" ROBIN WONDERS! AND THE FAMED CRIME-FIGHTER SOON WONDERS, TOO-- FOR HIS WHEREABOUTS IS A MYSTERY TO HIMSELF!

ALL BATMAN KNOWS IS THAT HE IS BEING SWEEPED ALONG BY SWIRLING LIGHTS THROUGH VAST REACHES OF SPACE...



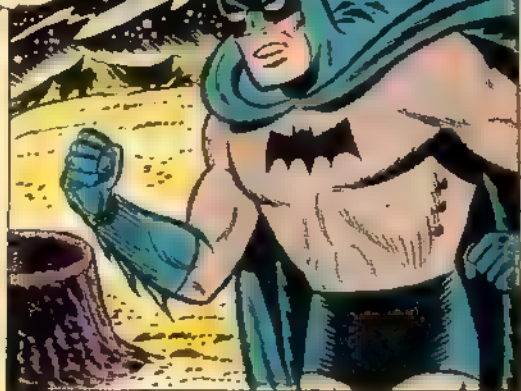
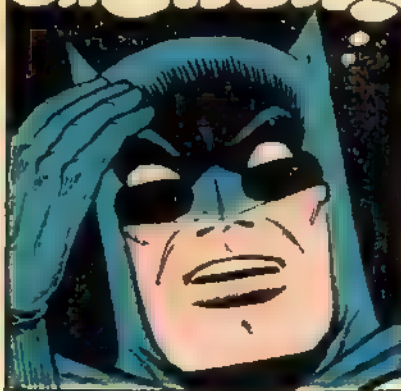
THEN SAND CRUNCHES UNDER HIS FEET--AND AN UNFAMILIAR LANDSCAPE ENCIRLES HIM!

TWIN MOONS! I'M ON AN ALIEN PLANET!



THOSE SWIRLING LIGHTS-- WERE THEY AN ALIEN ENERGY THAT TRANSMITTED ME HERE? I--I CAN'T REMEMBER! MAYBE ALIENS DELIBERATELY ERASED MY MEMORY! BUT WHY? WHAT IS IT THEY DON'T WANT ME TO REMEMBER?

MY UTILITY-BELT IS GONE-- WITH MY BAT-ROPE AND BATARANGS! I'VE BEEN MADE DEFENSELESS-- THRUST ON AN ALIEN WORLD-- AND I DON'T KNOW WHY!



THEN BATMAN IS TOUCHED BY A TINY FEAR-- THE INSTINCTIVE FEAR OF ANY MAN WHO IS ISOLATED AND WEAPONLESS-- AND CONFRONTED BY THE UNKNOWN!

IT'S NOT KNOWING THAT'S SO DISQUIETING! AND SOMEHOW I SENSE TERRIBLE DANGER -- WAITING! I--I'VE NEVER FELT SO ALONE IN ALL MY LIFE...

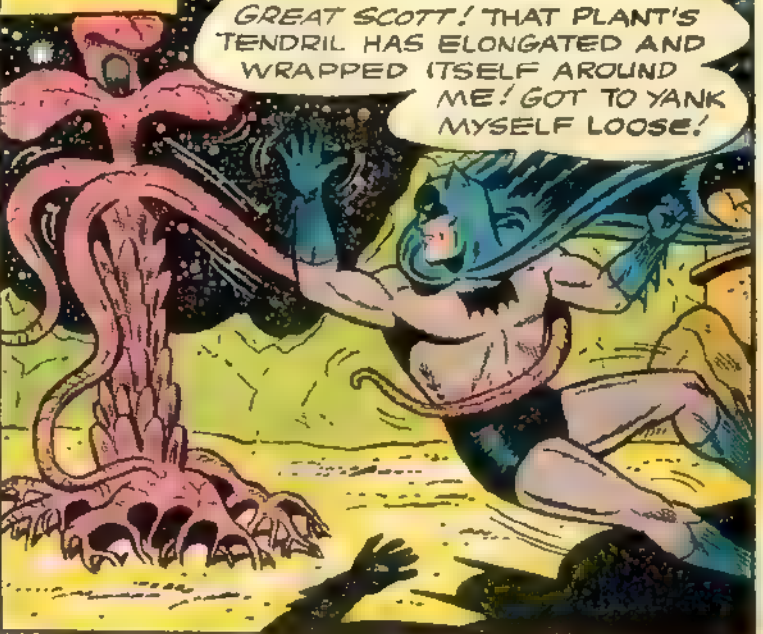




SO, BATMAN TRUDGES ON THROUGH THE ALIEN LAND, UNTIL ...



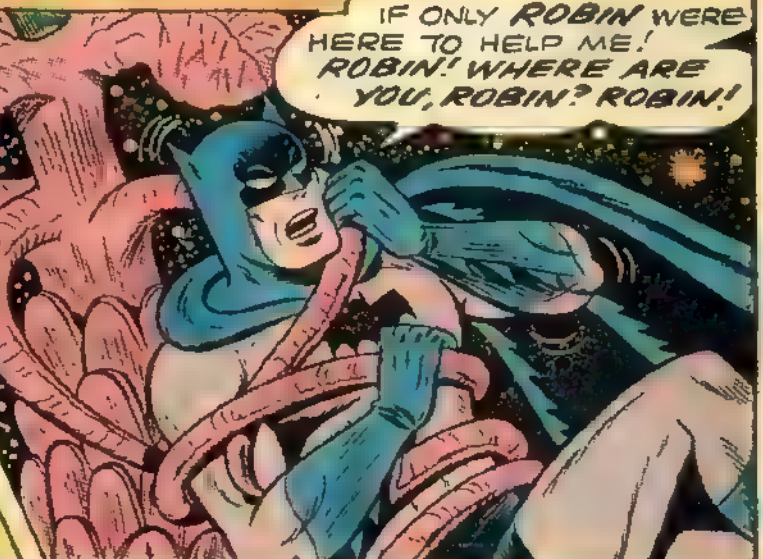
WITHOUT WARNING, SOMETHING SHOOTS OUT AT HIM ...



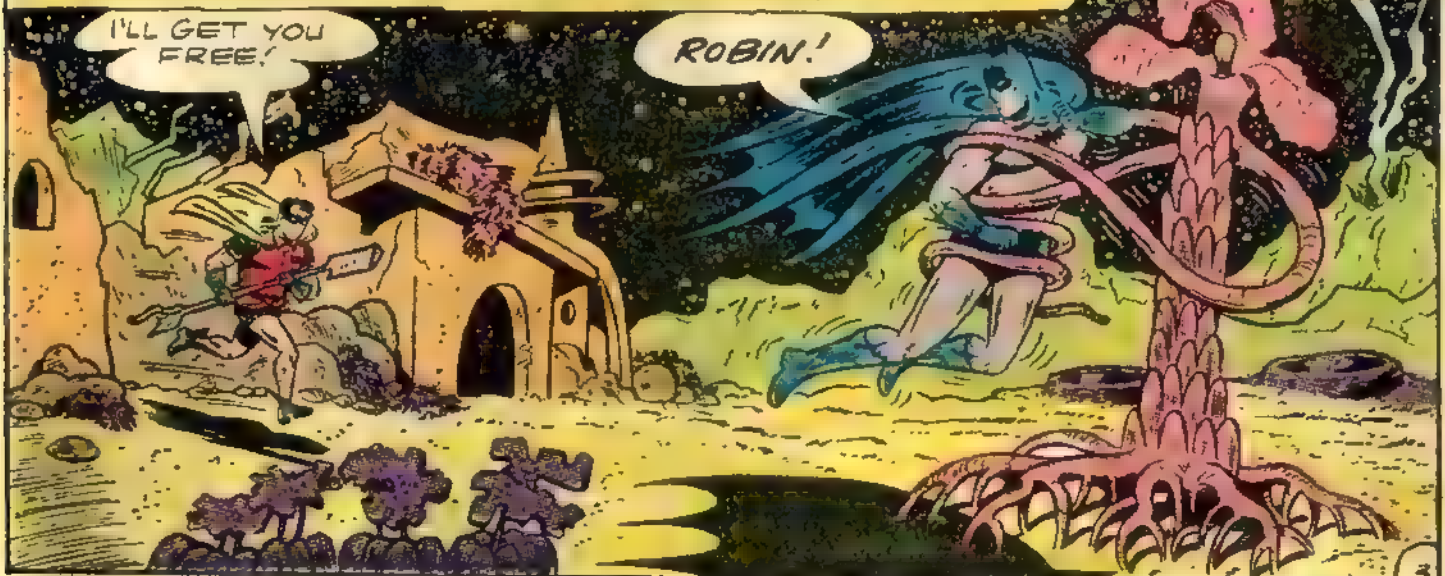
BUT BEFORE BATMAN CAN MOVE ...



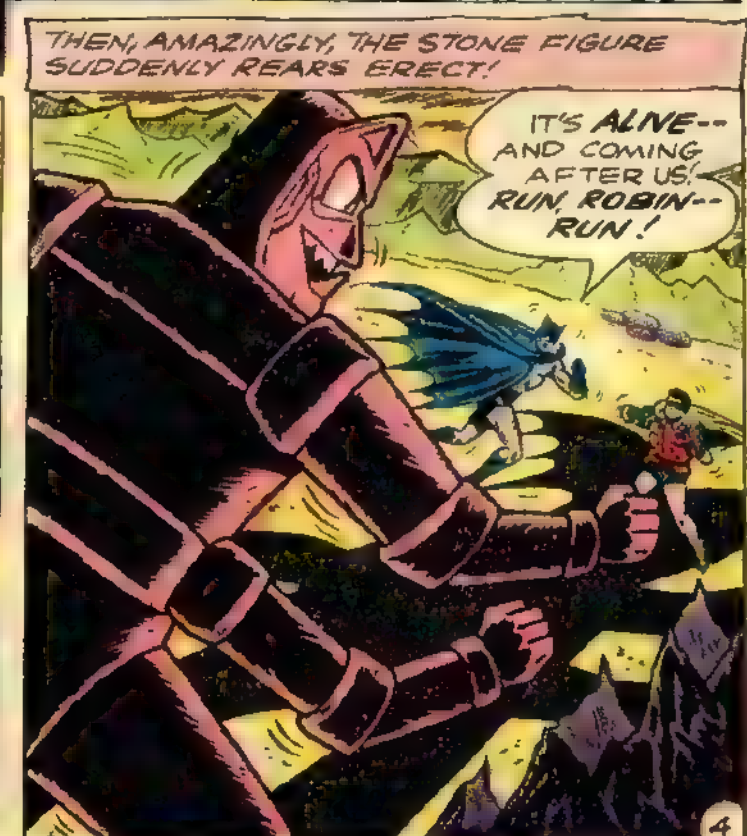
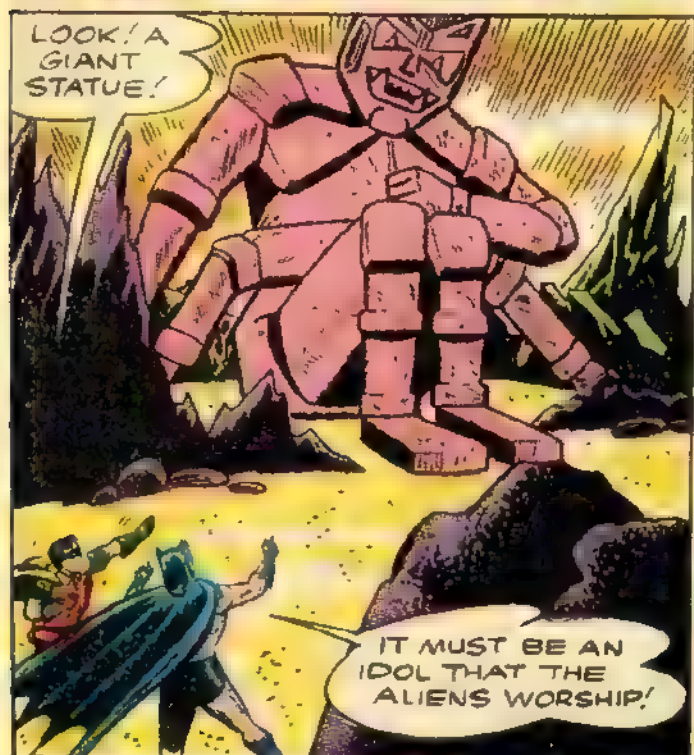
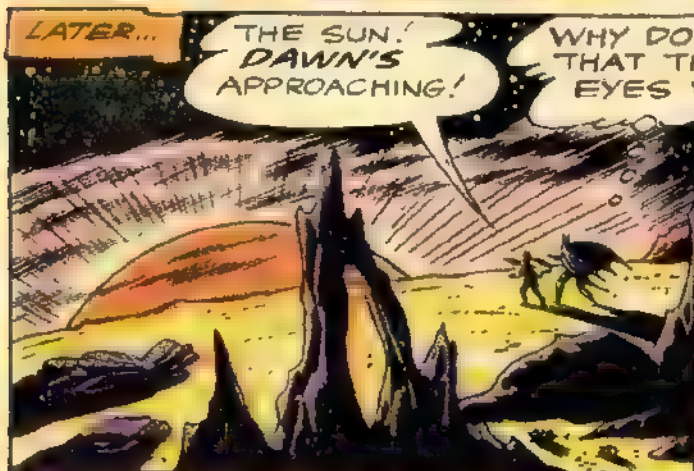
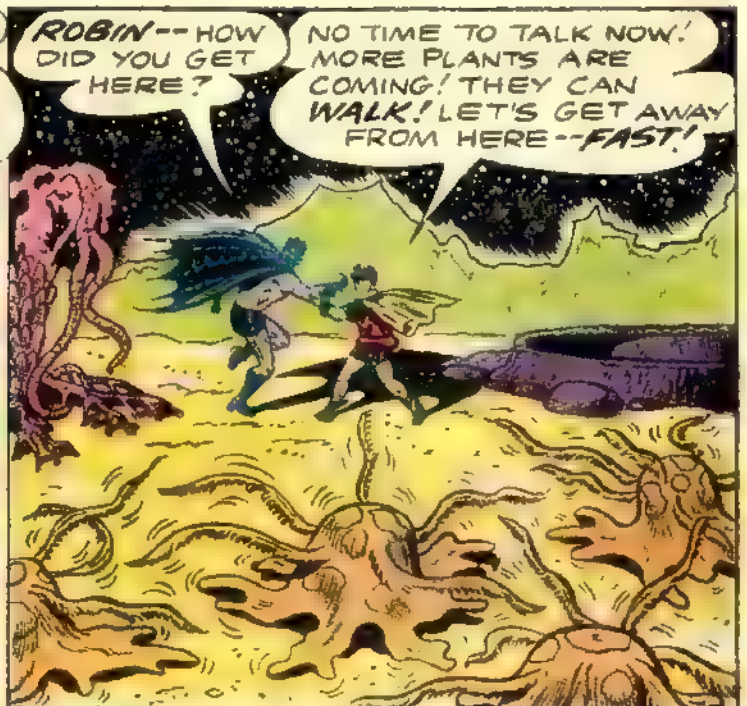
THEN AS THE TERRIBLE PLANT RELENTLESSLY  
TIGHTENS ITS GRIP...



SUDDENLY, A FAMILIAR, STURDY FIGURE RACES FORWARD ...









AS THE STONE COLOSSUS LUMBERS AFTER THEM IN DISTANCE-EATING STRIDES, BATMAN AND ROBIN, SUDDENLY FIND THEMSELVES CUT OFF!

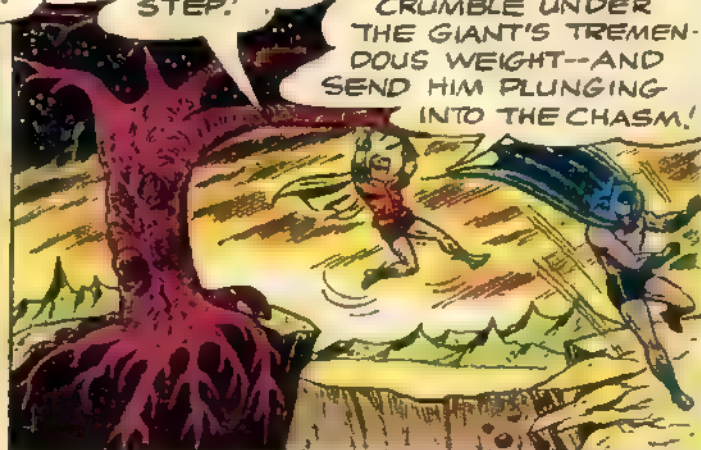
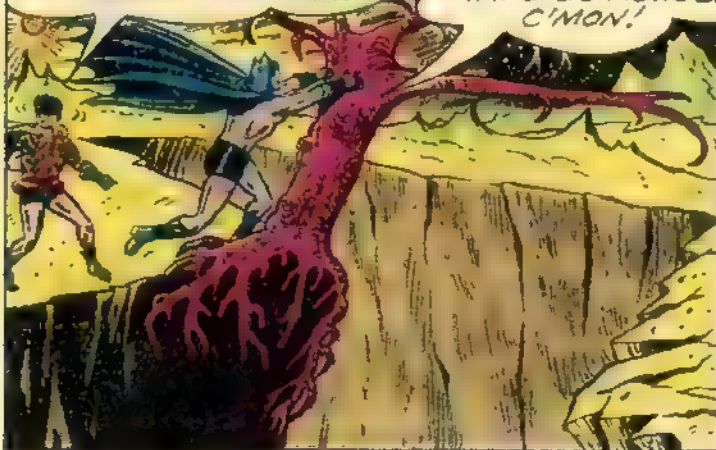
A CHASM-- AND THAT STONE MONSTER IS COMING ON FAST!

THAT JUTTING BRANCH WILL TAKE US ACROSS! C'MON!

HAND-OVER-HAND, THE FUGITIVES MAKE THEIR WAY ACROSS THE CHASM...

WE'LL NEVER ESCAPE! THAT GIANT CAN GET ACROSS AT US WITH JUST ONE STEP!

YES--BUT THE LEDGE ON THIS OPPOSITE SIDE IS WEAK! IT WILL CRUMBLE UNDER THE GIANT'S TREMENDOUS WEIGHT--AND SEND HIM PLUNGING INTO THE CHASM!

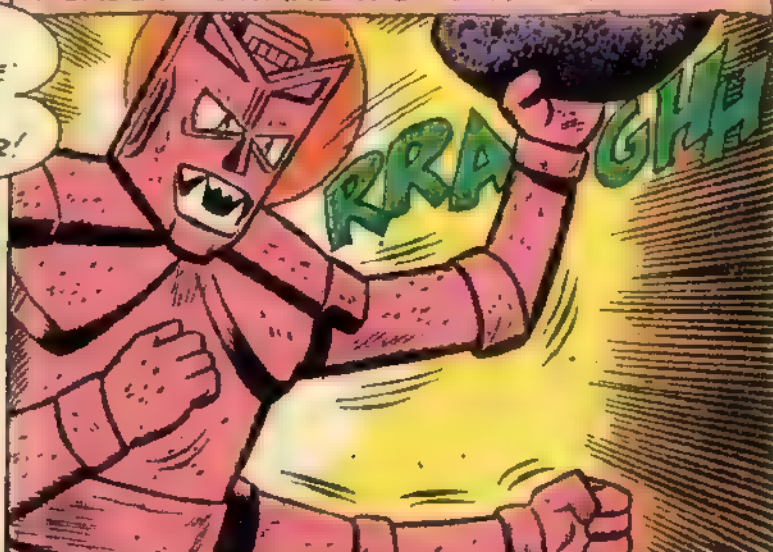
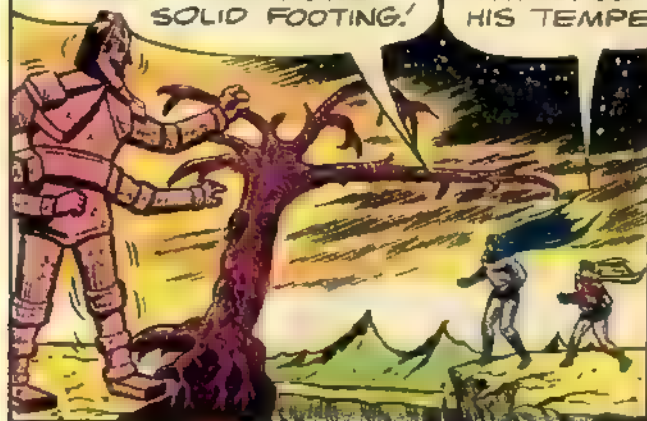


UPON REACHING THE OTHER SIDE, THEY WATCH HOPEFULLY AS THE STONE GIANT APPROACHES...

IN BLIND, UNREASONING FURY, THE GIANT SEIZES A GREAT BOULDER AND STRIDES ACROSS TOWARD HIS PUNY FOE!

LOOK AT THAT CRAFTY GRIN! THE GIANT SUSPECTS OUR RUSE! HE'S LOOKING FOR MORE SOLID FOOTING!

WE'RE FINISHED-- UNLESS WE CAN MAKE HIM LOSE HIS TEMPER!

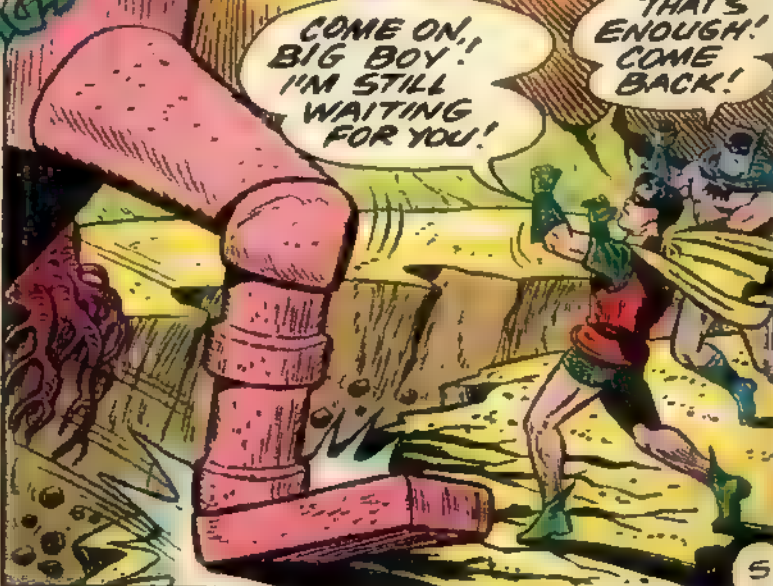
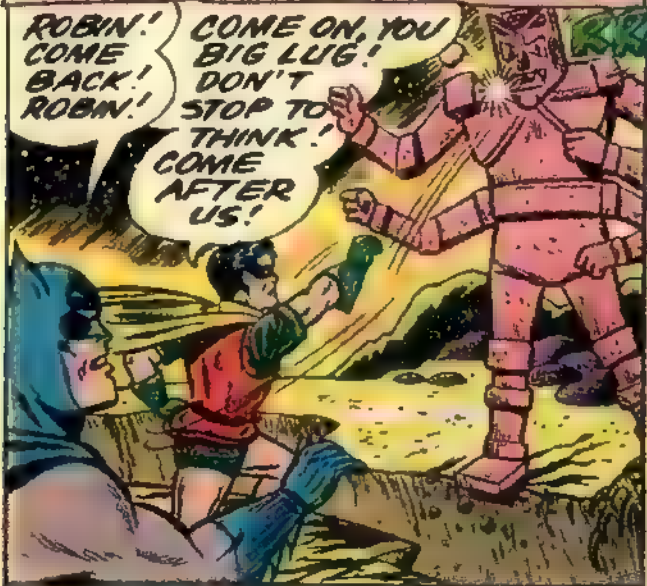


THEN, BEFORE BATMAN CAN MOVE...

ROBIN! COME BACK! COME BACK! COME BACK! COME ON, YOU BIG LUG! DON'T STOP TO THINK! COME AFTER US!

COME ON, BIG BOY! I'M STILL WAITING FOR YOU!

ROBIN! THAT'S ENOUGH! COME BACK!



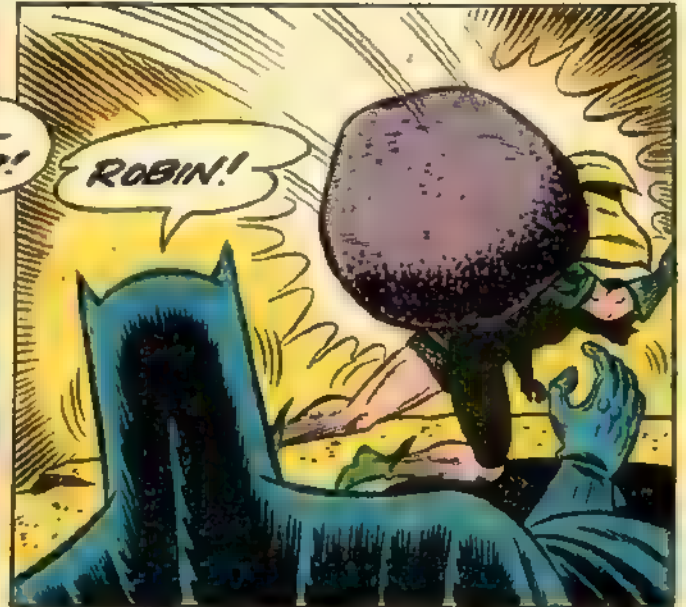


AS THE WEAK LEDGE CRUMBLES UNDER THE GIANT'S COLOSSAL WEIGHT...



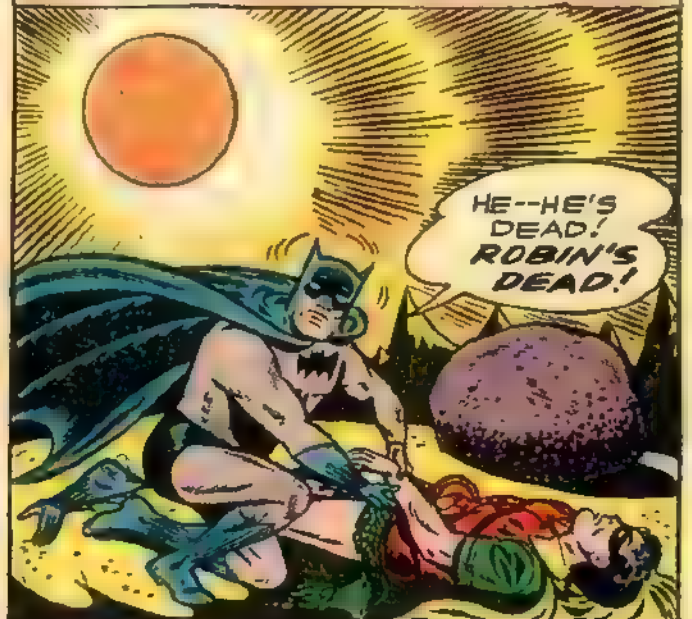
ROBIN!  
WATCH OUT!--  
THAT BOULDER!

UHHH!



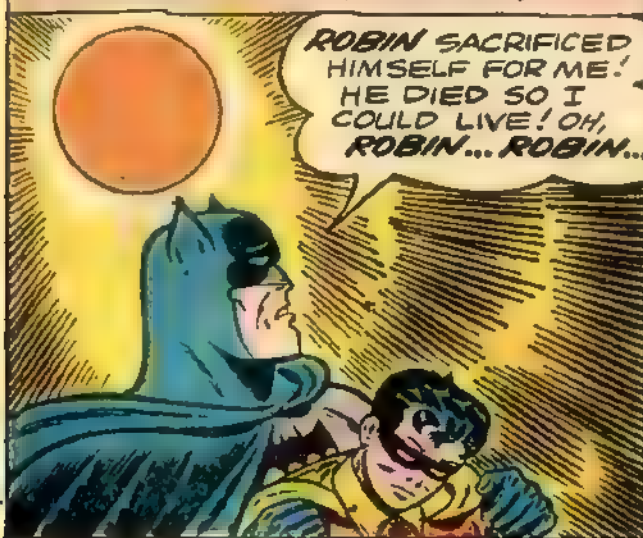
ROBIN!

EVEN AS HE FEELS FOR A PULSE BEAT, BATMAN KNOWS IT IS NO USE!



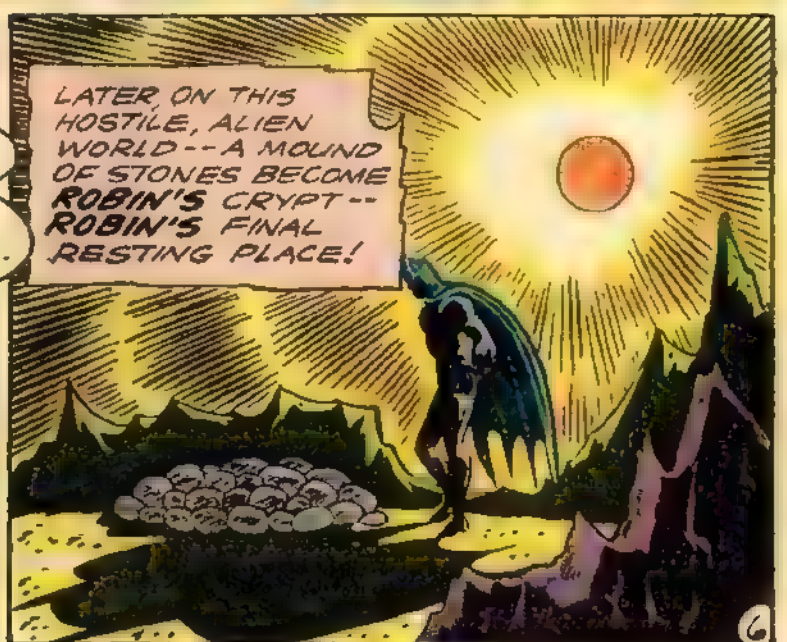
HE--HE'S  
DEAD!  
ROBIN'S  
DEAD!

THE DAWN SUN RISES, LOOKING DOWN AT A MAN STUNNED BY THE SHOCK OF TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE!



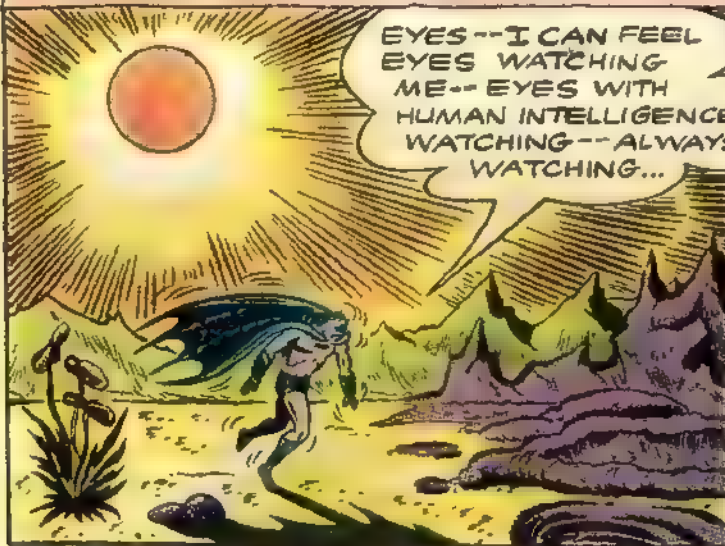
ROBIN SACRIFICED  
HIMSELF FOR ME!  
HE DIED SO I  
COULD LIVE! OH,  
ROBIN... ROBIN...

LATER, ON THIS  
HOSTILE, ALIEN  
WORLD-- A MOUND  
OF STONES BECOME  
ROBIN'S CRYPT--  
ROBIN'S FINAL  
RESTING PLACE!



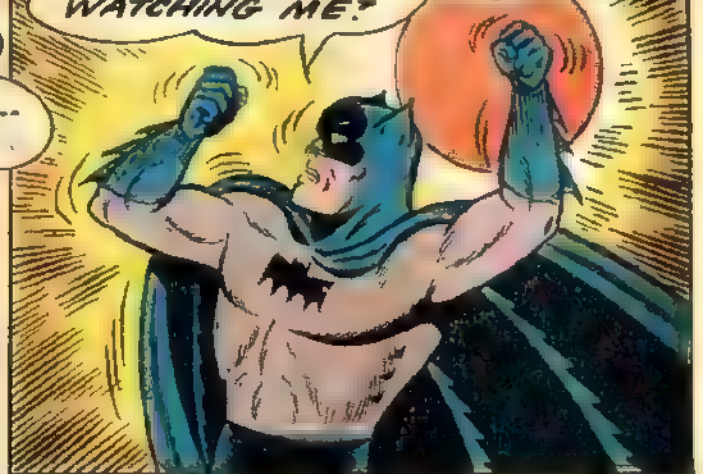


MUCH LATER, WEAKENED BY THIRST--  
CRUSHED BY TRAGEDY--A LONE FIGURE  
STAGGERS OVER BURNING DESERT SANDS...



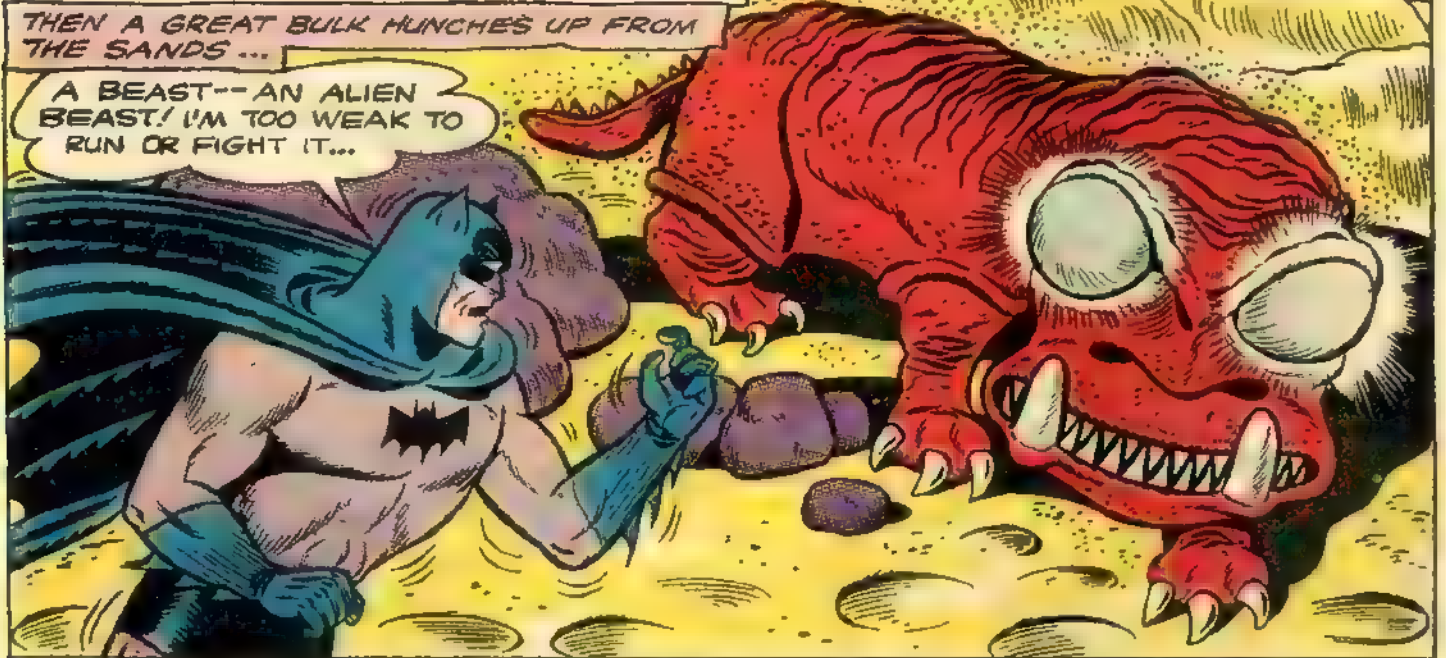
EYES--I CAN FEEL  
EYES WATCHING  
ME--EYES WITH  
HUMAN INTELLIGENCE--  
WATCHING--ALWAYS  
WATCHING...

I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE!  
WHY DON'T YOU SHOW YOURSELVES?  
WHY ARE YOU  
WATCHING ME?

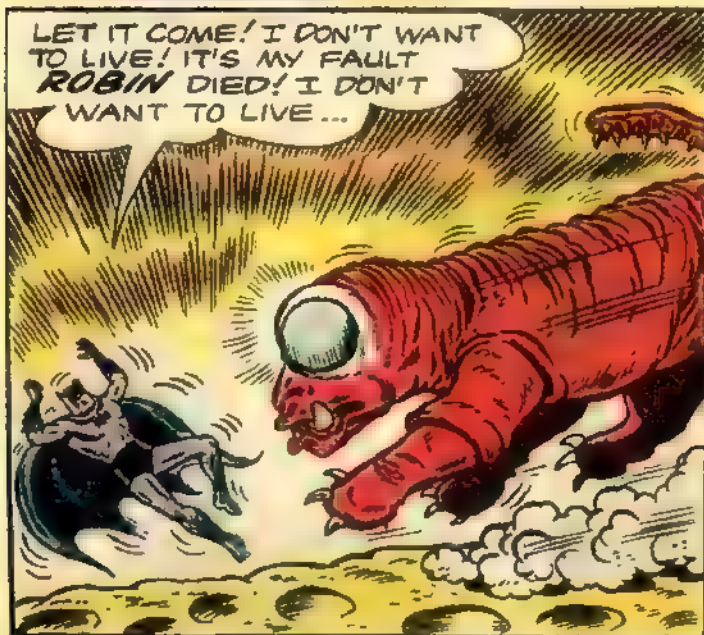


THEN A GREAT BULK HUNCHES UP FROM  
THE SANDS...

A BEAST--AN ALIEN  
BEAST! I'M TOO WEAK TO  
RUN OR FIGHT IT...

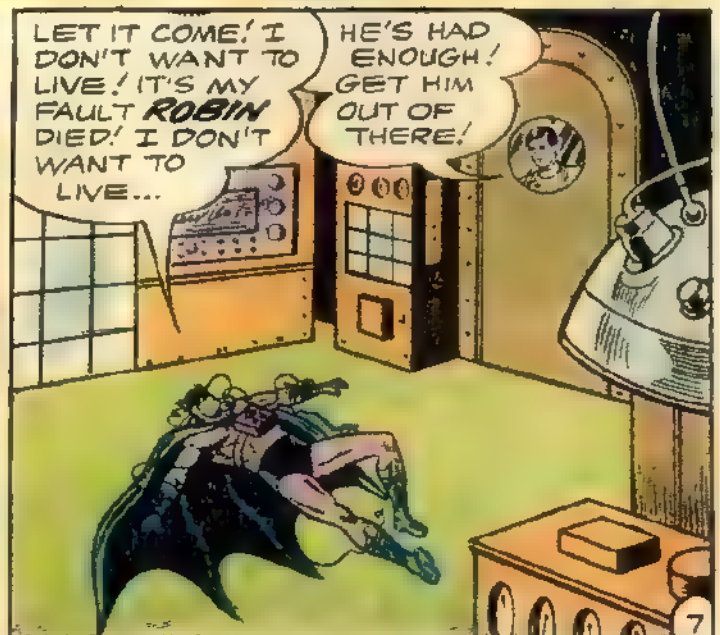


LET IT COME! I DON'T WANT  
TO LIVE! IT'S MY FAULT  
**ROBIN** DIED! I DON'T  
WANT TO LIVE...



LET IT COME! I  
DON'T WANT TO  
LIVE! IT'S MY  
FAULT **ROBIN**  
DIED! I DON'T  
WANT TO  
LIVE...

HE'S HAD  
ENOUGH!  
GET HIM  
OUT OF  
THERE!







# BATMAN



SWIFTLY, A HATCH OPENS--FIGURES HURRY TO BATMAN'S SIDE...

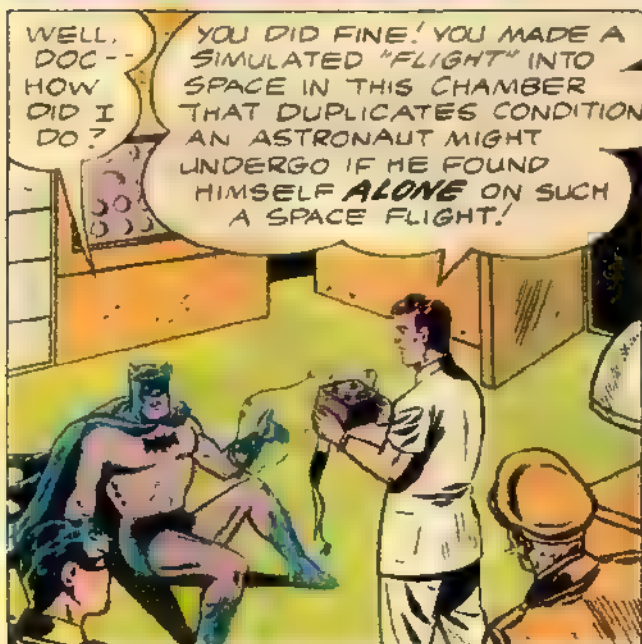


WHAT...?  
ROBIN--  
ALIVE!  
I--I...

EASY, BATMAN--  
EVERYTHING'S  
UNDER CONTROL!  
YOU'RE IN THE  
TEST CHAMBER--  
REMEMBER?

THE TEST--I REMEMBER  
NOW! I DIDN'T WANT YOU  
TO WORRY--I LEFT A  
LETTER WITH GORDON  
FOR YOU--TO BE  
GIVEN TO YOU AFTER  
TWO DAYS...

YES--I GOT  
THE NOTE--  
AND I'VE  
BEEN COMING  
HERE EVERY  
DAY SINCE  
THEN, TO LOOK  
IN ON YOU!



WELL,  
DOC--  
HOW  
DID I  
DO?

YOU DID FINE! YOU MADE A  
SIMULATED "FLIGHT" INTO  
SPACE IN THIS CHAMBER  
THAT DUPLICATES CONDITIONS  
AN ASTRONAUT MIGHT  
UNDERGO IF HE FOUND  
HIMSELF *ALONE* ON SUCH  
A SPACE FLIGHT!

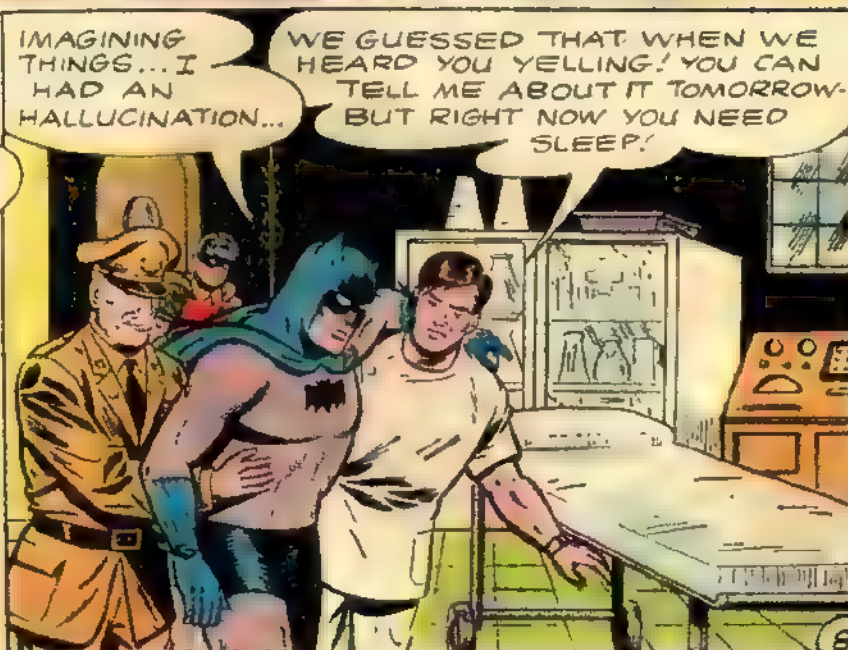


BATMAN, BY VOLUNTEERING  
FOR THIS TEST, YOU'VE MADE  
A GREAT CONTRIBUTION  
TO *SPACE  
MEDICINE!*

YES, INDEED!  
THE DATA  
COLLECTED  
ON THESE  
SENSITIVE RECORD-  
ING INSTRUMENTS  
WILL ENABLE US TO  
GAUGE EFFECTS  
ON AN ASTRONAUT'S  
NERVOUS SYSTEM!



YOUR REACTIONS WILL HELP US  
DETERMINE, HOW LONG, AND  
WHAT KINDS OF STRAINS AN  
ASTRONAUT CAN ENDURE IN  
LONELINESS, BEFORE HIS MIND  
STARTS IMAGINING  
THINGS...



IMAGINING  
THINGS...I  
HAD AN  
HALLUCINATION...

WE GUESSED THAT WHEN WE  
HEARD YOU YELLING! YOU CAN  
TELL ME ABOUT IT TOMORROW--  
BUT RIGHT NOW YOU NEED  
SLEEP!



THE FOLLOWING DAY, AFTER MANY TESTS, **BATMAN** DICTATES HIS HALLUCINATION INTO A TAPE RECORDER...

THOSE EYES I SENSED WATCHING ME-- NOW I REALIZE THEY WERE **YOUR** EYES WATCHING THROUGH THE OBSERVATION WINDOW! STRANGE, HOW AFRAID I WAS OF BEING ALONE...

NOT SO STRANGE!...

ONE OF **MAN'S** MOST PRIMITIVE FEARS IS LONELINESS! WHEN A MAN IS ISOLATED TOO LONG, THE MIND PLAYS STRANGE TRICKS... IN YOUR CASE YOU IMAGINED THAT YOU WERE INDIRECTLY GUILTY OF **ROBIN'S** DEATH. YOUR CONSTANT CONCERN ABOUT THE BOY'S SAFETY CAME TO THE SURFACE IN YOUR HALLUCINATIONS!

LATER, AS **BATMAN** LEAVES FOR HOME...

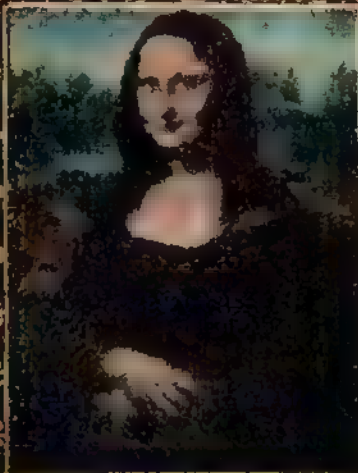
DOCTOR, YOU LOOK WORRIED...

I AM! **BATMAN'S** A HARDY SPECIMEN, WITH AN ABOVE-AVERAGE MIND-- BUT EVEN A **BATMAN** CAN SUCCUMB TO STRESS AND SHOCK! I JUST HOPE THERE WON'T BE ANY AFTER-EFFECTS...

CONTINUED IN CHAPTER 2

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## GREAT MASTERPIECES



**MONA LISA**  
Leonardo DaVinci  
1452-1519



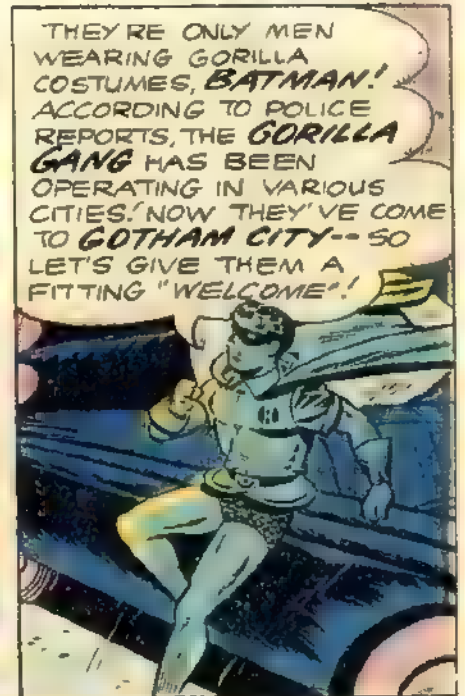
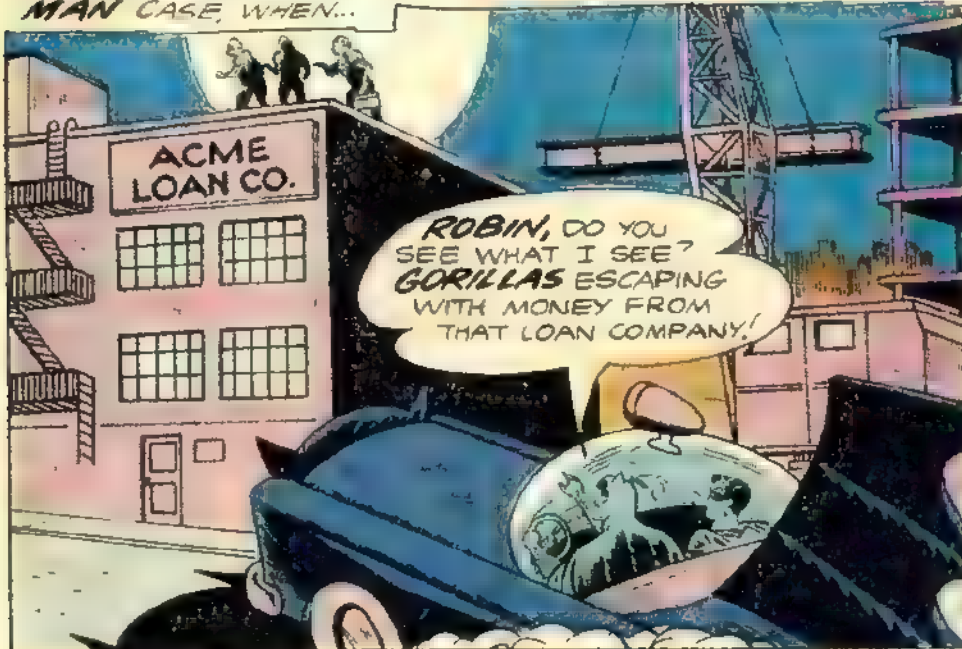
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Masterpieces of Delicious Candy  
Creamy Smooth!



CHAPTER 2

**ROBIN DIES AT DAWN**

HOMEWARD BOUND **ROBIN** BRIEFS **BATMAN** ON THE **ANT-MAN** CASE, WHEN...



SWIFTLY, SILENTLY, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** DART UP THE FIRE-ESCAPE--AND CHARGE INTO THE **GORILLA GANG**!







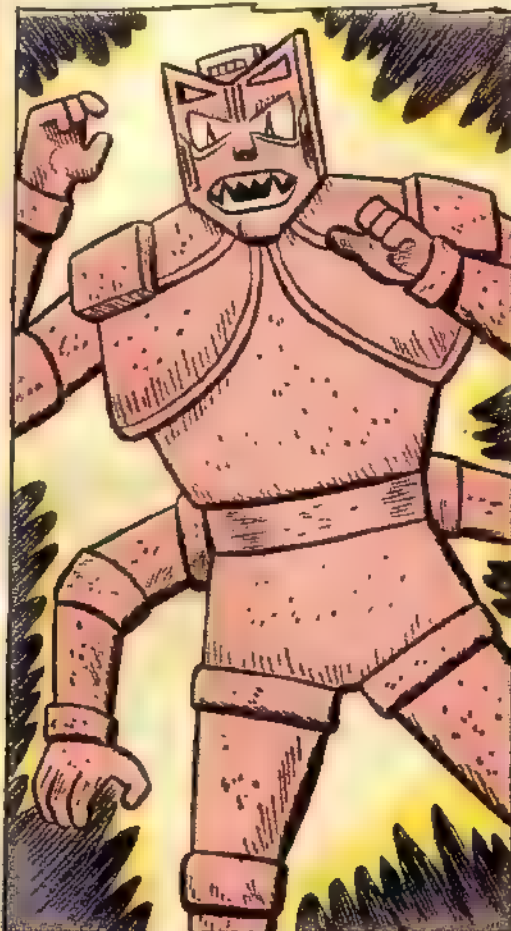
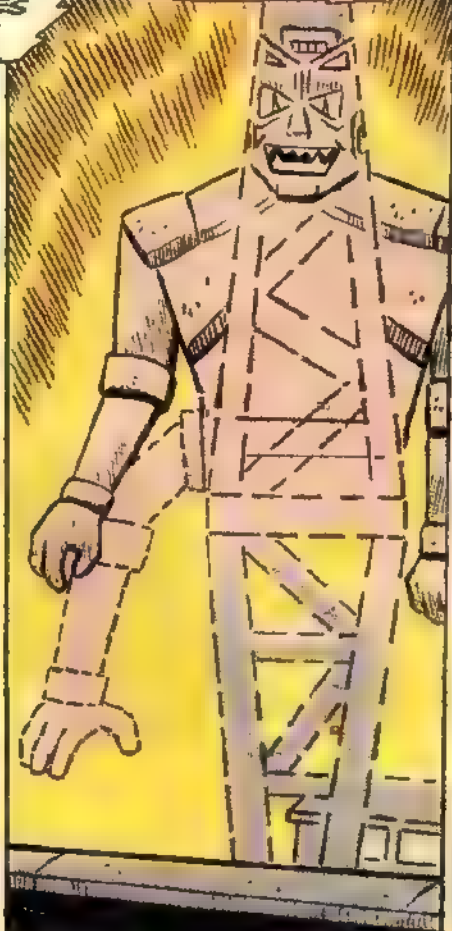
# BATMAN



AS **ROBIN** RACES AHEAD TOWARD THE FLEEING BANDITS, **BATMAN** SUDDENLY STARES AT THE TALL CONSTRUCTION CRANE...

...AND IT SEEMS TO ALTER...

...TO BECOME THE STONE GIANT OF HIS HALLUCINATION!

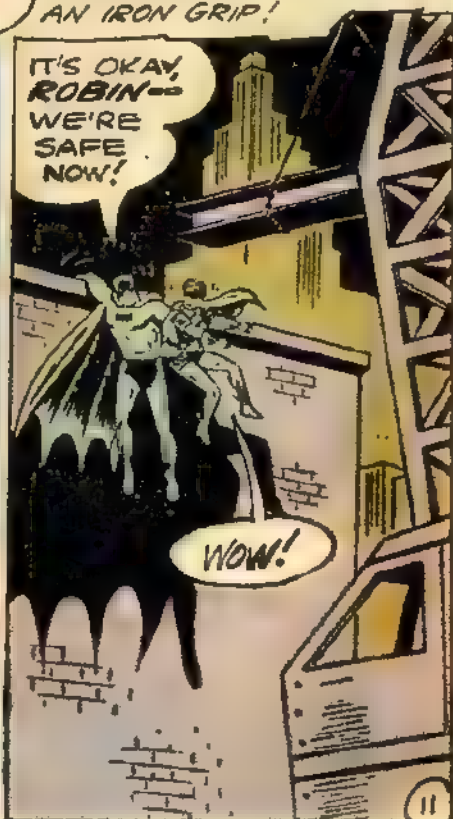


ONCE AGAIN, **BATMAN** SEEMS TO SEE **ROBIN** IN PERIL, AND ACTS INSTINCTIVELY!

BUT, TO **ROBIN'S** EYES, THE SCENE IS A VERY DIFFERENT ONE!

**ROBIN'S** SUDDEN SHOUT JOPTS **BATMAN'S** LAPSE OF MEMORY--AND HE INSTANTLY FLINGS OUT A HAND THAT CLINGS WITH AN IRON GRIP!

**BATMAN!** YOU'RE TAKING US OVER THE EDGE OF THE ROOF!







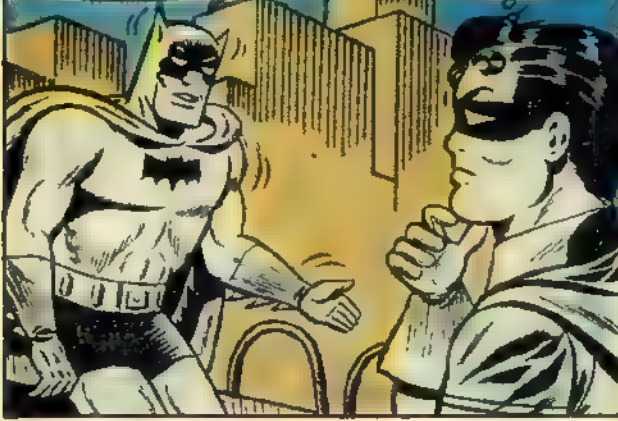
# BATMAN



LATER, AFTER **BATMAN** TELLS OF HIS MOMENTARY HALLUCINATION...

SORRY, **ROBIN**--I GUESS I'M STILL A LITTLE SHAKY FROM THE TEST. I--I'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL BY TOMORROW!

I SURE HOPE SO-- FOR **BATMAN'S** SAKE



LATER, AT THE WAYNE MANSION, **BRUCE'S** RETURN IS EAGERLY AWAITED BY TWO LOYAL FRIENDS!

**ALFRED!** **ACE!** AH, IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK HOME AGAIN!

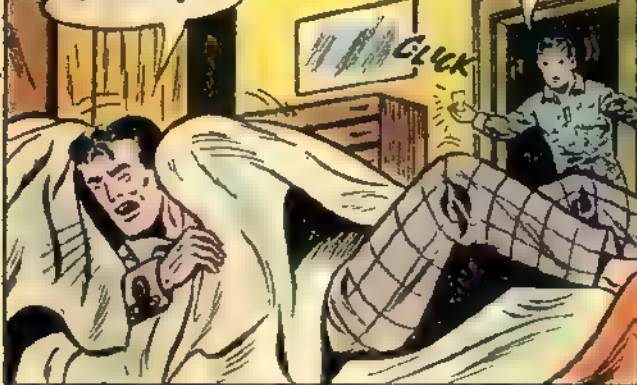
WE ALL MISSED YOU, SIR!



FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING! THE HOUSE IS QUIET--UNTIL A SHOUT SENDS **DICK** BURSTING INTO **BRUCE'S** ROOM...

THE **TENTACLES**--TIGHTENING ABOUT ME! HELP! **ROBIN!** HELP!

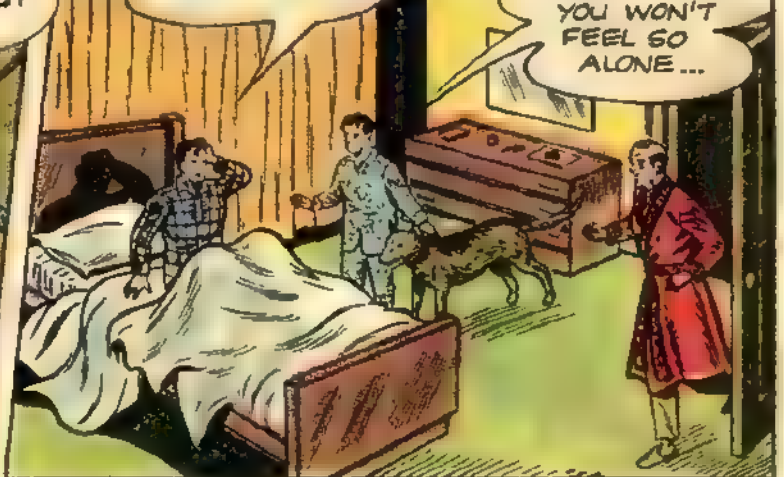
GOSH! HE'S DREAMING ABOUT THE **TENTACLE-PLANT!**



AS THE SUDDEN ILLUMINATION AWAKENS **BRUCE**--

UH...? I'M HOME! OH, I HAD A NIGHTMARE! IT WAS AWFUL-- AWFUL...

**BRUCE**, I'LL HAVE **ACE** SLEEP IN HERE TONIGHT--SO YOU WON'T FEEL SO ALONE...



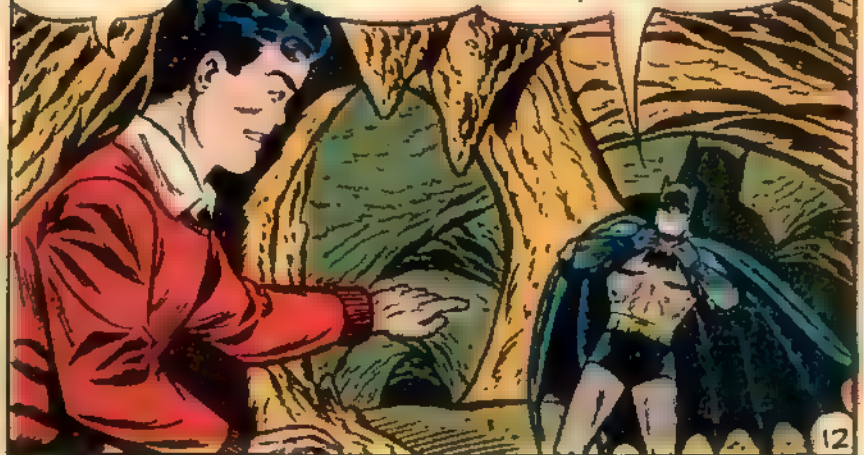
Y-YES... MAYBE THAT WOULD BE BETTER...



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AS **DICK** DESCENDS TO THE **BAT-CAVE**...

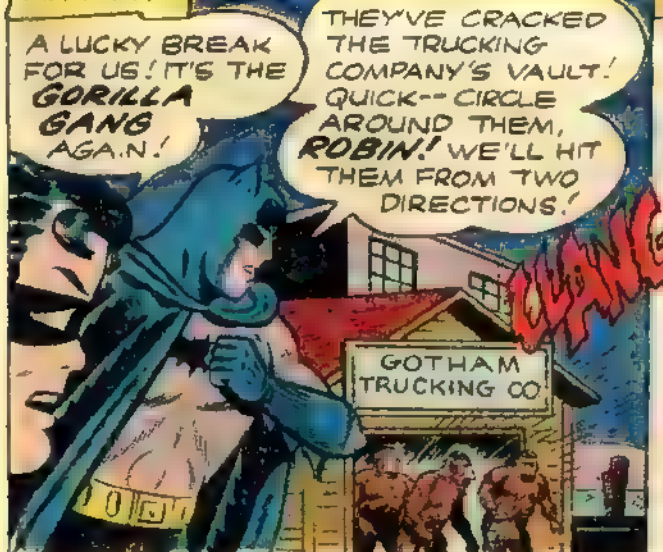
YOU'RE NOT REALLY GOING ON PATROL?

I CERTAINLY AM! I FEEL FINE TODAY! BESIDES, WITH THE **GORILLA GANG** IN TOWN, THE POLICE MAY NEED OUR HELP! GET DRESSED, **DICK**!

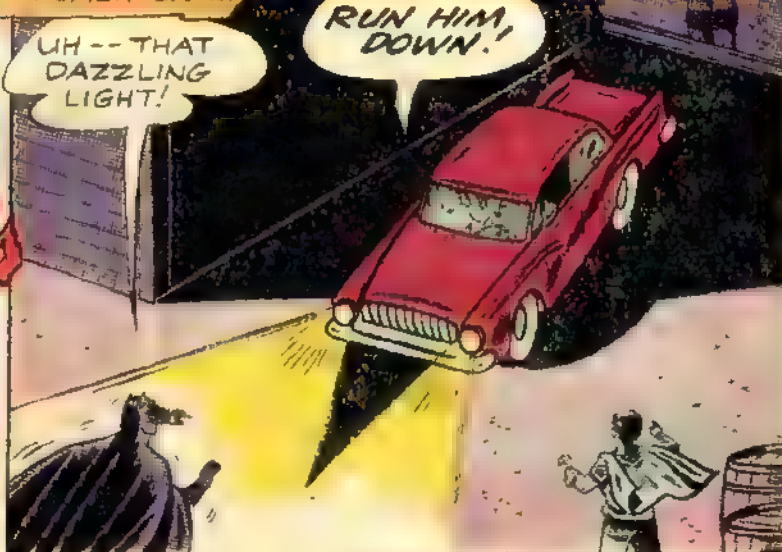




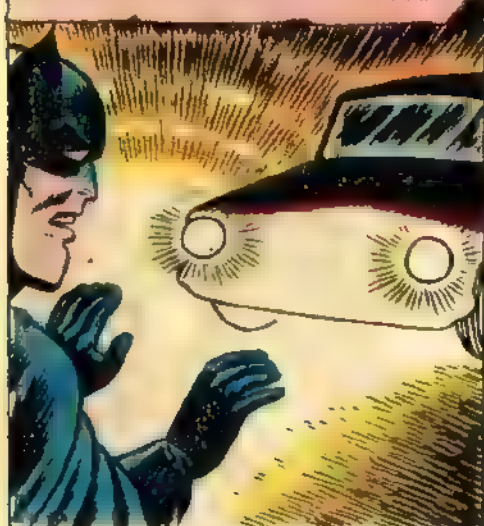
LATER-- EVER ON THE ALERT, THE DYNAMIC DUO INSTANTLY DASHES TO THE SOURCE OF A CLANGING BURGLAR ALARM!



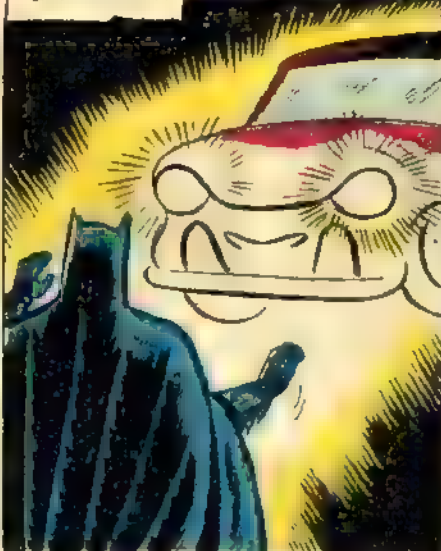
UNEXPECTEDLY, THE GORILLA GANG PILES INTO A GETAWAY CAR HIDDEN IN THE DARKNESS... ITS MOTOR ROARS... AND HEADLIGHTS FLASH ON...



HALF-BLINDED BY THE SUDDEN GLARE, BATMAN STANDS TRANSFIXED-- LIKE A MOTH HYPNOTIZED BY FLAME...



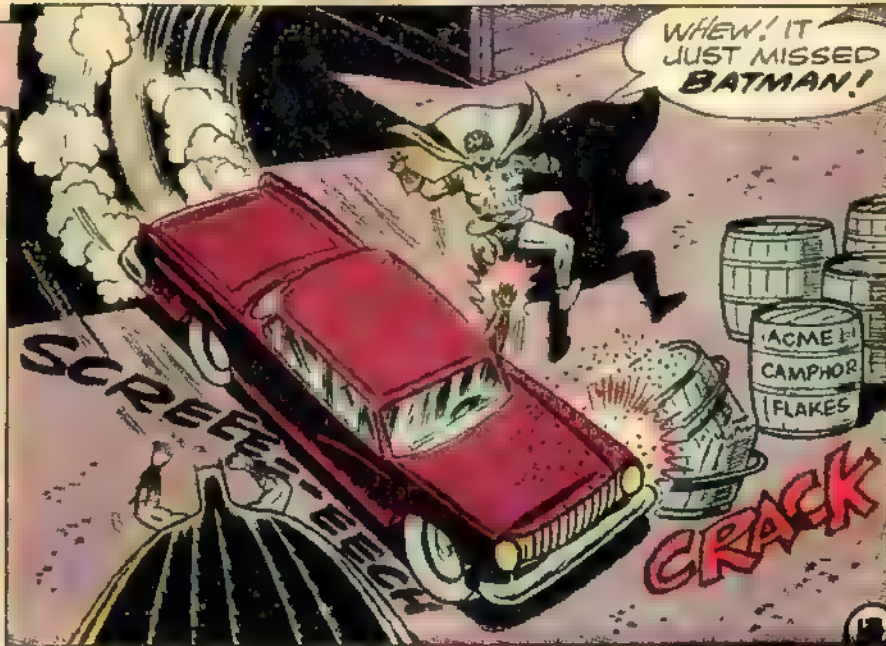
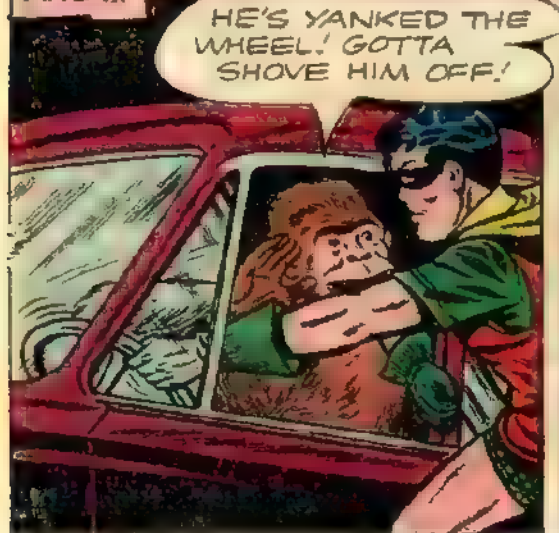
...AND IN HIS MIND'S EYE, THE CAR SUBTLY CHANGES SHAPE...



...UNTIL HE IS ONCE AGAIN RELIVING HIS HALLUCINATION!



REALIZING WHAT HAS HAPPENED, THE BOY WONDER LEAPS AT THE BANDIT CAR AND...







# BATMAN



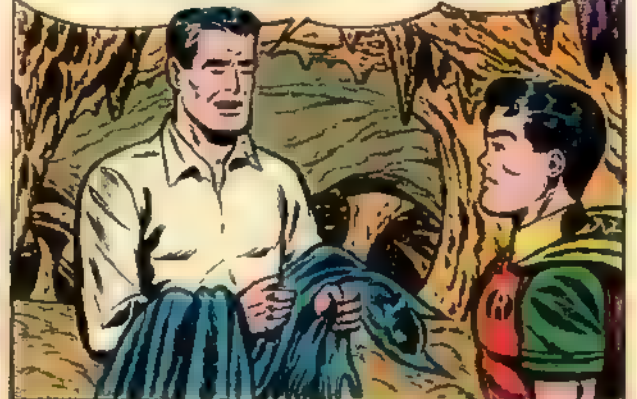
IT IS THE SPLINTERING OF THE CAMPHOR BARREL THAT SNAPS **BATMAN** OUT OF HIS MOMENTARY TRANCE...

I--I MUST HAVE BLACKED OUT AGAIN! **ROBIN**-- WHAT HAPPENED?

I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT WHEN WE GET HOME...

LATER, **BATMAN** AT LAST REALIZES THERE IS SOMETHING VERY, VERY WRONG WITH HIM...

LET'S FACE REALITY! WHILE I HAVE THESE MENTAL BLACKOUTS, I ENDANGER YOUR LIFE! I CAN'T EVER LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO...



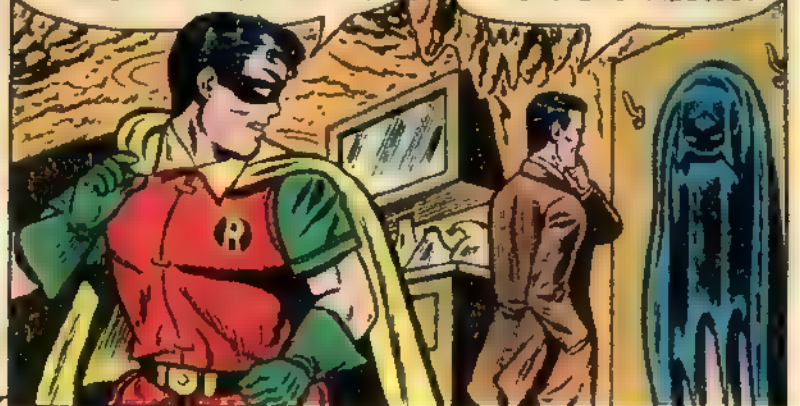
...I MUST PUT AWAY MY **BATMAN** COSTUME AND RETIRE FROM CRIME-FIGHTING!

OH, **BATMAN!** SOB!

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT--ONLY ONE MEMBER OF THE FAMED TEAM DONS CRIME-FIGHTING GARB...

I'VE AN APPOINTMENT WITH PROFESSOR CARSON--ABOUT THE TESTIMONY WE'LL GIVE AT THE **ANT-MAN'S** TRIAL! I--I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN!

I--IF YOU RUN INTO CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, BE EVEN MORE CAREFUL THAN YOU WOULD BE IF I WERE ALONG!

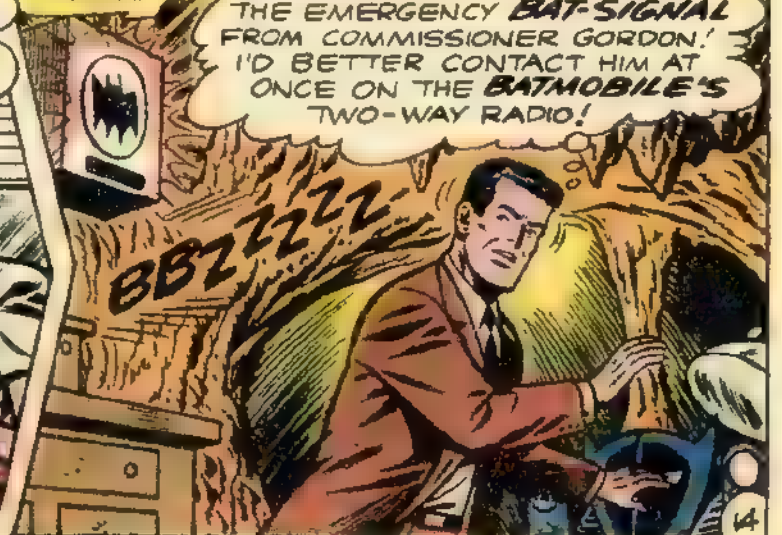


BUT ONE THING **ROBIN** KEEPS FROM **BATMAN** IS A SECRET APPOINTMENT WITH THE ARMY DOCTOR...

I WAS AFRAID OF THIS! **BATMAN** WILL NEED TREATMENT! THEN, EVENTUALLY, HE WILL BE HIMSELF AGAIN-- BUT IT WILL TAKE TIME...

HOURS PASS, AND KEEPING HIS VIGIL IN THE **BAT CAVE**, **BRUCE** IS GETTING WORRIED, WHEN...

THE EMERGENCY **BAT-SIGNAL** FROM COMMISSIONER GORDON! I'D BETTER CONTACT HIM AT ONCE ON THE **BATMOBILE'S** TWO-WAY RADIO!







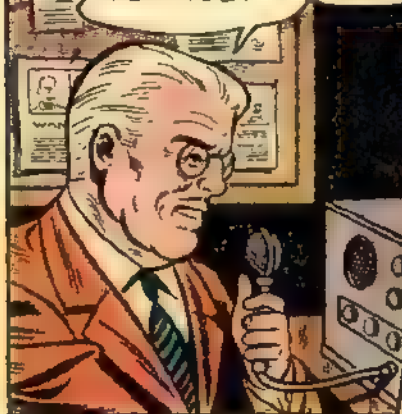
# BATMAN



BATMAN, SOMEHOW THE GORILLA GANG LEARNED OF ROBIN'S APPOINTMENT WITH PROFESSOR CARSON! THE GANG OVERCAME ROBIN SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY AND TOOK HIM PRISONER! T-HEY SENT ME A NOTE FOR YOU!

THE NOTE SAYS, "BATMAN, WE'VE SENTENCED ROBIN TO DEATH--AND AT DAWN, WE'RE SENDING HIM OUT OF THIS WORLD. FOR GOOD! IF YOU INTERFERE WITH OUR ROBBERIES AGAIN, YOU'LL BE NEXT!"

I VOWED NOT TO WEAR THE BATMAN COSTUME AGAIN-- BUT ROBIN'S LIFE IS AT STAKE! I'VE GOT TO FIND THE GORILLA GANG HIDEOUT--AND ROBIN-- BEFORE DAWN!



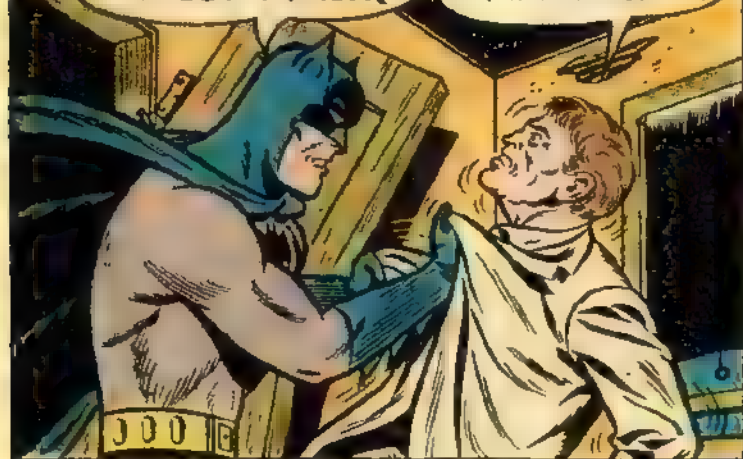
THOUGH POLICE JOIN THE SEARCH, BATMAN IS LIKE A FURY AS HE CRASHES UNDERWORLD HAUNTS!

PRECIOUS HOURS PASS--WITH NO RESULT!

WHERE'S THE GORILLA GANG HIDEOUT? TALK!

G-GOSH! IF I KNEW I'D TELL YA! H-HONEST!

TIME'S RUNNING OUT! ROBIN'S SOMEWHERE IN THIS BIG CITY! BUT WHERE? AND IF I DO FIND HIM, WILL I BE ABLE TO SAVE HIM--OR WILL I BLACK OUT AGAIN AS I DID LAST NIGHT?

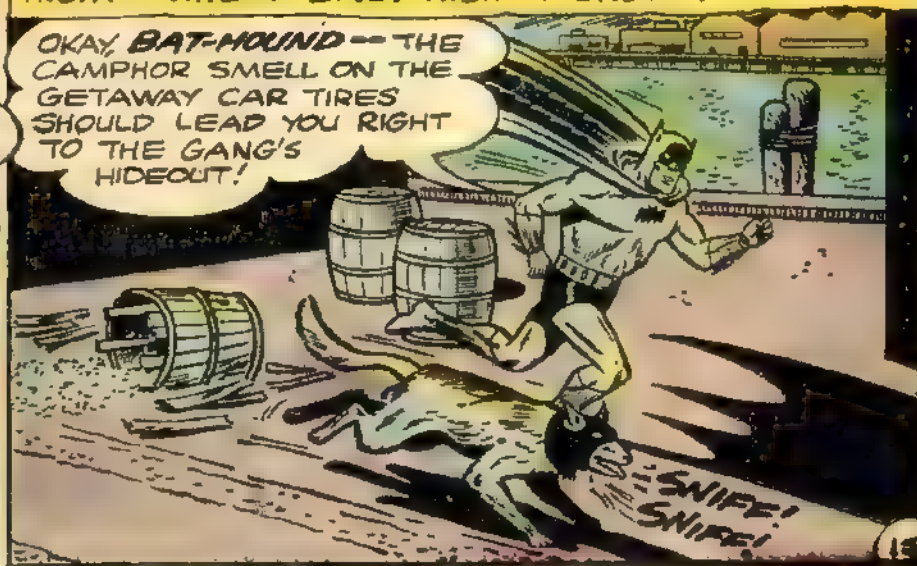


"LAST NIGHT"! THOSE WORDS SUDDENLY HELP BATMAN RECALL SOMETHING THAT OCCURRED THE PREVIOUS NIGHT!

SHORTLY, WITH ACE IN HIS BAT-BOUND IDENTITY, THE MOVE AGAINST THE GORILLA GANG STARTS THIS NIGHT-- WHERE LAST NIGHT'S ENDED!

THE GETAWAY CAR TIRES PASSED THROUGH SPILLED CAMPHOR FLAKES! CAMPHOR SCENT IS VERY STRONG--TAKES QUITE A WHILE TO FADE AWAY COMPLETELY! THAT CAMPHOR SCENT WOULD BE TOO FAINT FOR ME TO TRAIL-- BUT NOT FOR A DOG'S KEEN SENSE OF SMELL!

OKAY, BAT-BOUND-- THE CAMPHOR SMELL ON THE GETAWAY CAR TIRES SHOULD LEAD YOU RIGHT TO THE GANG'S HIDEOUT!





SOON--**DAWN!** SHAFTS OF SUNLIGHT PROBE EVERYWHERE--ESPECIALLY THROUGH A SLIDING ROOFTOP...

MINUTES PASS AS THE CRIMINALS WAIT FOR THE RETURN OF THEIR COMPANION...



SUNRISE--AND **ROBIN'S** GONNA RISE UNTIL HE'S **OUTA THIS WORLD!**

HA, HA, ONE WHACK OF THIS SHARP AX AND...

HOLD IT, PETE. I HEARD SOMETHING--SOUNDS LIKE FOOTSTEPS! LUKE, TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE AND SEE IF ANYBODY'S SNOOPING AROUND!

CHECK!



WELL? ANYBODY OUTSIDE?

YES...



...ME!

**BATMAN!** HE KAYOED LUKE--AND GOT INTO LUKE'S SUIT TO CATCH US OFF-GUARD! I'LL FIX HIM!

FREED, THE BALLOON STARTS TO RISE, THE ROPES TRAILING LIKE TENTACLES AROUND **BATMAN'S** SHOULDERS!.



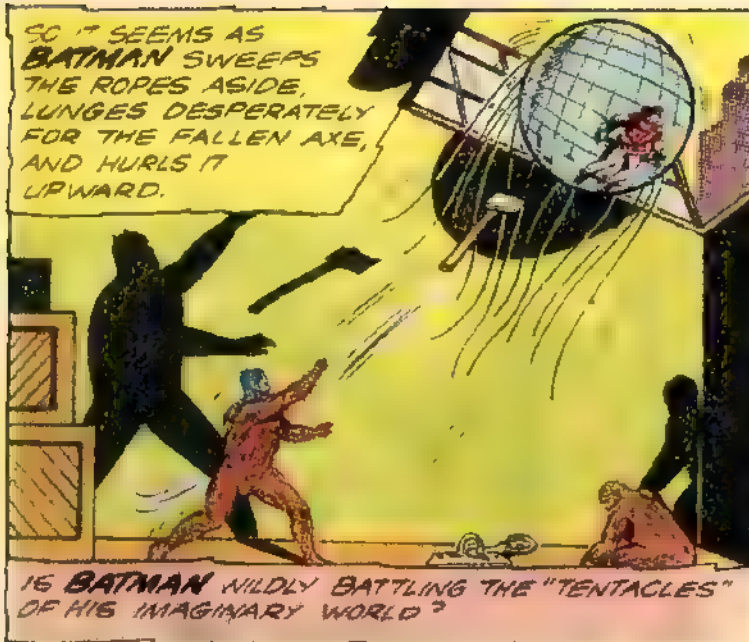
THEN, A SHAGGY SHAPE HURTTLES FORWARD LIKE A MISSILE...

THE AX--IT'S CUT THE MOORING ROPES!

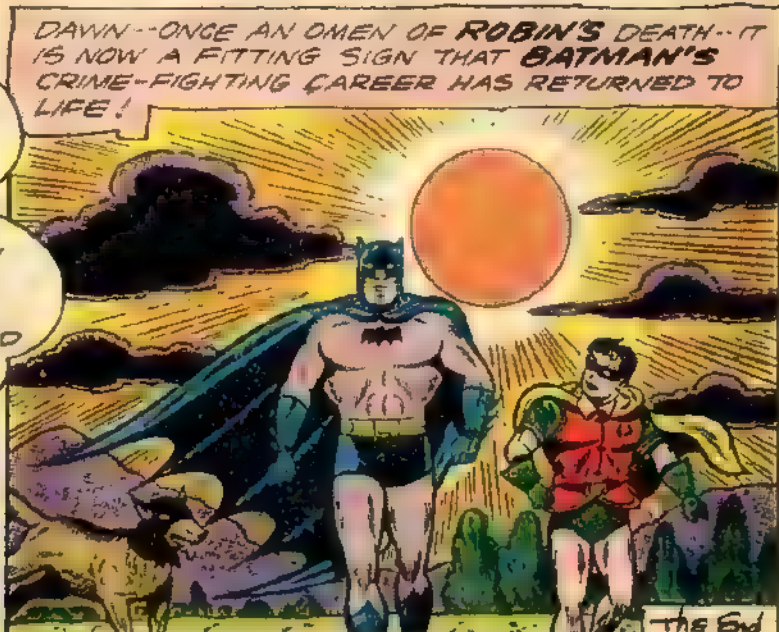
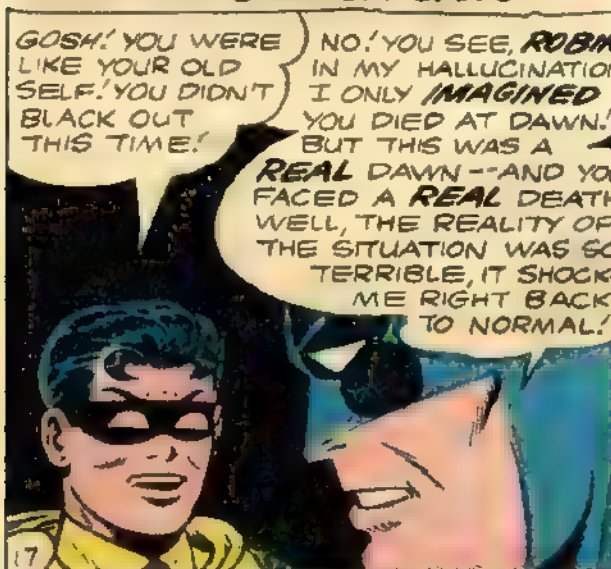


"LIKE TENTACLES!" WILL THOSE ROPES CAUSE **BATMAN** TO BLACK OUT AGAIN? WILL HE IMAGINE HE IS IN THE GRIP OF THE TENTACLE-PLANT?

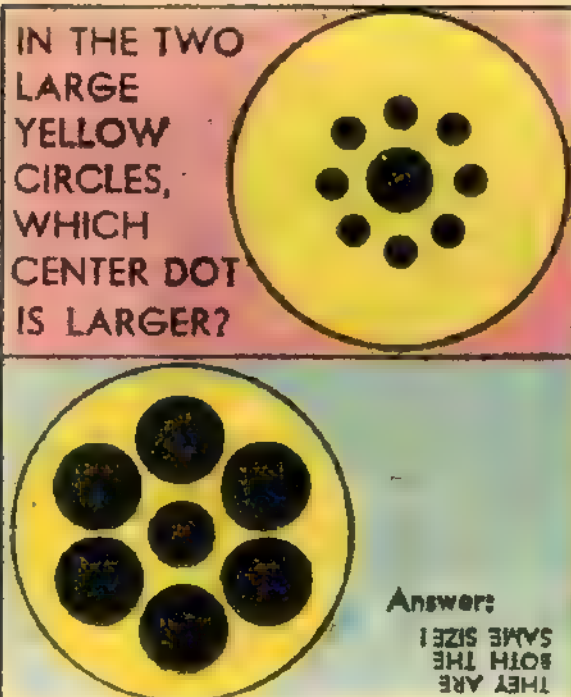




LATER, WHEN POLICE ARE SUMMONED TO JAIL THE GORILLA GANG...



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DEATH KNOCKS

THREE TIMES!

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

12¢

MAY  
NO. 180

# BATMAN

I'LL BE THE  
**DEATH**  
OF YOU YET,  
BATMAN  
AND  
ROBIN!

R.I.P.  
BATMAN  
AND  
ROBIN





A SHATTERING NOVEL OF SINISTER  
SUSPENSE STARRING --

# BATMAN

WITH ~~LOLLY~~ THE BOY WONDER  
AND THE SPECTRAL VICTIM WHO HAUNTS  
THEM -- DEATH-MAN!

SOONER OR LATER,  
EVERY CRIMINAL  
NO MATTER HOW  
POWERFUL, HOW  
CLEVER, HAS BEEN  
BROUGHT TO JUSTICE  
BY BATMAN AND  
ROBIN!

NOW, FOR THE FIRST  
TIME, A NIGHTMARISH  
FIGURE APPEARS  
WHO SLIPS THROUGH  
BATMAN'S FINGERS  
LIKE SMOKE -- A  
MACABRE MENACE  
WHO SEEMS TO BE  
BEYOND THE FAR-  
FLUNG REACH OF  
LAW ITSELF!  
LISTEN FOR A SOUND  
YOU WILL NEVER FOR-  
GET AS LONG AS YOU  
LIVE WHEN ...

**"DEATH  
KNOCKS  
THREE  
TIMES!"**



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BRUCE WAYNE, MILLIONAIRE PLAYBOY, AND HIS PROTEGE DICK GRAYSON ARE GUESTS AT A PENTHOUSE SHOWING OF GOTHAM CITY'S SWANKIEST GEM DEALER...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS THE PRICELESS "RUBIES OF FIRE" COLLECTION!

AH, MR. WAYNE! THE INTERNATIONAL BEAUTIES YOU SURROUND YOURSELF WITH--R VAL MY PRECIOUS GEMS! MAY I BORROW THEM TO MODEL MY DISPLAY?

HELP YOURSELF!

OOOOOHH--!

YOU GRLS WON'T BE SO HAPPY WHEN YOU FIND YOU CAN'T TAKE HOME ANY "SAMPLES"!!

TERROR SEIZES THE AUDIENCE BY THE THROAT AT THE SUDDEN SIGHT OF AN EERILY GARBED FIGURE..

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU--SO I'M TAKIN' IT WITH ME!  
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

GET SET, DICK! WE'RE GOING TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM THAT COSTUMED CLOWN!

BUT--LIKE DEATHLY DARK SHADOWS--APPEAR...

IF ANY OF YOU ARE RASH ENOUGH TO TRY TO STOP ME--MY HENCHMEN WILL SEE THAT YOU REACH A DEAD END! HA-HA-HA-HA!

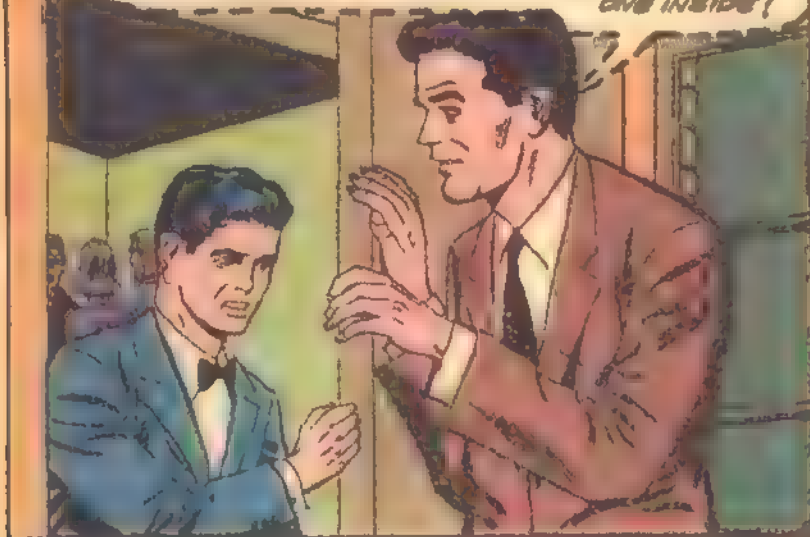
FROM THE FUNERAL FIGURE--  
AN ICY WARNING...

LIVE A LITTLE! DON'T TRY TO FOLLOW ME THROUGH THIS DOOR! GUNS WILL BE AIMED AT IT UNTIL I'M GONE! FAREWELL!



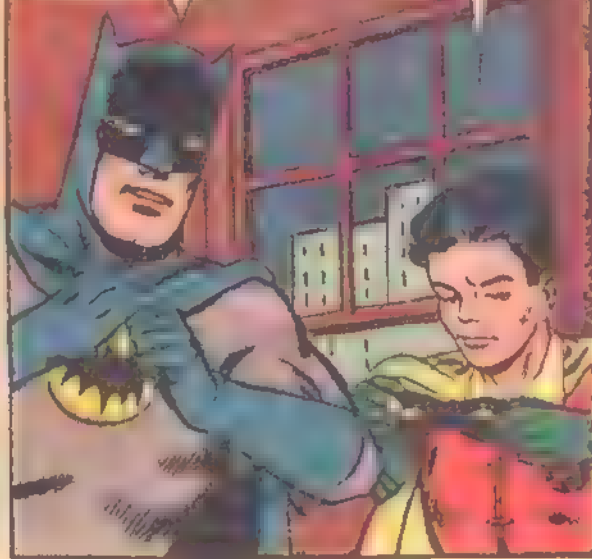
WHILE THE AUDIENCE STARES NUMBLY...

WE CAN'T RISK GOING AFTER THAT WEE-CRACKING PHANTOM BY THE DOOR! HE MAY HAVE PLANTED A MOOD THERE TO GUN DOWN ANYONE COMING THROUGH! AND WILD SHOTS COULD KILL SOMEONE INSIDE!



WE'LL CHANGE AND FOLLOW HIM DOWN THE FIRE-ESCAPE!

IT'LL BE A 20-STORY CHASE!



MOMENTS LATER, THE UNIQUE TEAM OF BATMAN THE MASTER DETECTIVE, AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER, DANGLE IN DZZY SPACE AS...

WE'LL HAVE TO SLIDE DOWN THIS PIPE! I FORGOT THE BUILDING IS FIRE-PROOF--NO FIRE-ESCAPES!

NOW YOU TELL ME!



SUDDENLY, THE DARING DUO'S SPECTACULAR SLIDE COMES TO AN END WHEN...

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE RUN OUT OF PIPE! AND WE'VE STILL TEN FLOORS TO GO!



AT THAT MOMENT--A LONE GUARD VALIANTLY TRIES TO HALT THE ESCAPING GANG LED BY THEIR EERIE LEADER...

THE FOOL--GIVING UP HIS LIFE--JUST TO HOLD ME FOR A FEW SECONDS!

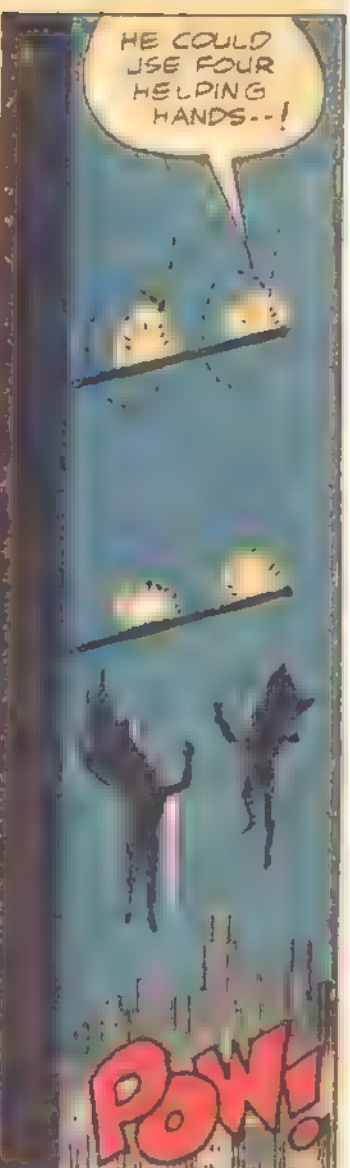
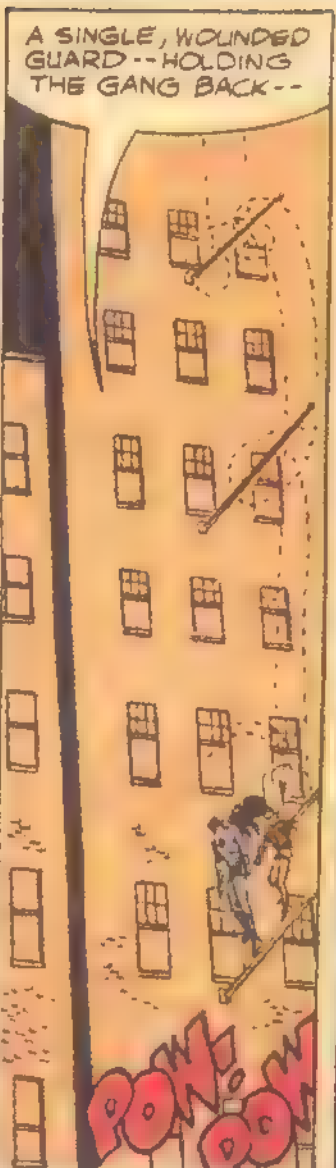
HE'S GOT ABOUT AS MUCH CHANCE OF STOPPING YOU--DEATH-MAN--AS HE'D HAVE OF STOPPING A TIDAL WAVE WITH A TEA CUP!



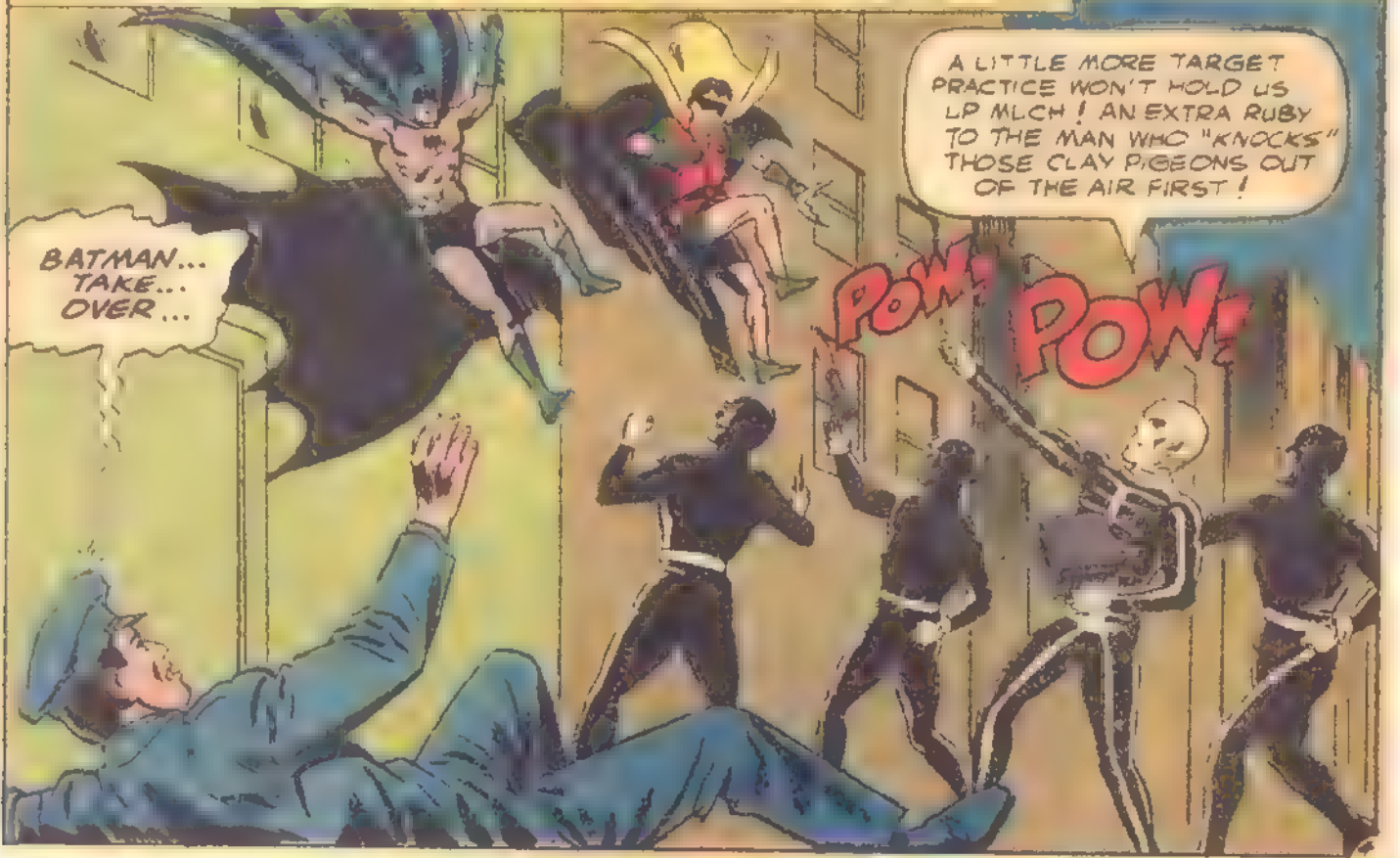


THE SOUNDS OF GUNFIRE FROM BELOW STING BATMAN AND ROBIN INTO RISKING THEIR LIVES TO THEIR INCREDIBLE ACROBATIC AGILITY AS...

HEAR THAT, ROBIN? 2 SHOTS! THAT GRISLY GANG MUST HAVE REACHED THE STREET AND ARE SHOOTING THEIR WAY OUT! WE'VE GOT TO TAKE THE FASTEST WAY DOWN TO TRY TO STOP THEM! VIA THOSE FLAGPOLES!



AS THE RUTHLESS FIGURE OF DEATH LEADS HIS SINISTER GANG PAST THE SLUMPED GUARD-- FLAPPING CAPES LIKE GIANT WINGS SEEM TO HOVER OVER THEM...



BATMAN... TAKE... OVER...

A LITTLE MORE TARGET PRACTICE WON'T HOLD US UP MUCH! AN EXTRA RUBY TO THE MAN WHO "KNOCKS" THOSE CLAY PIGEONS OUT OF THE AIR FIRST!



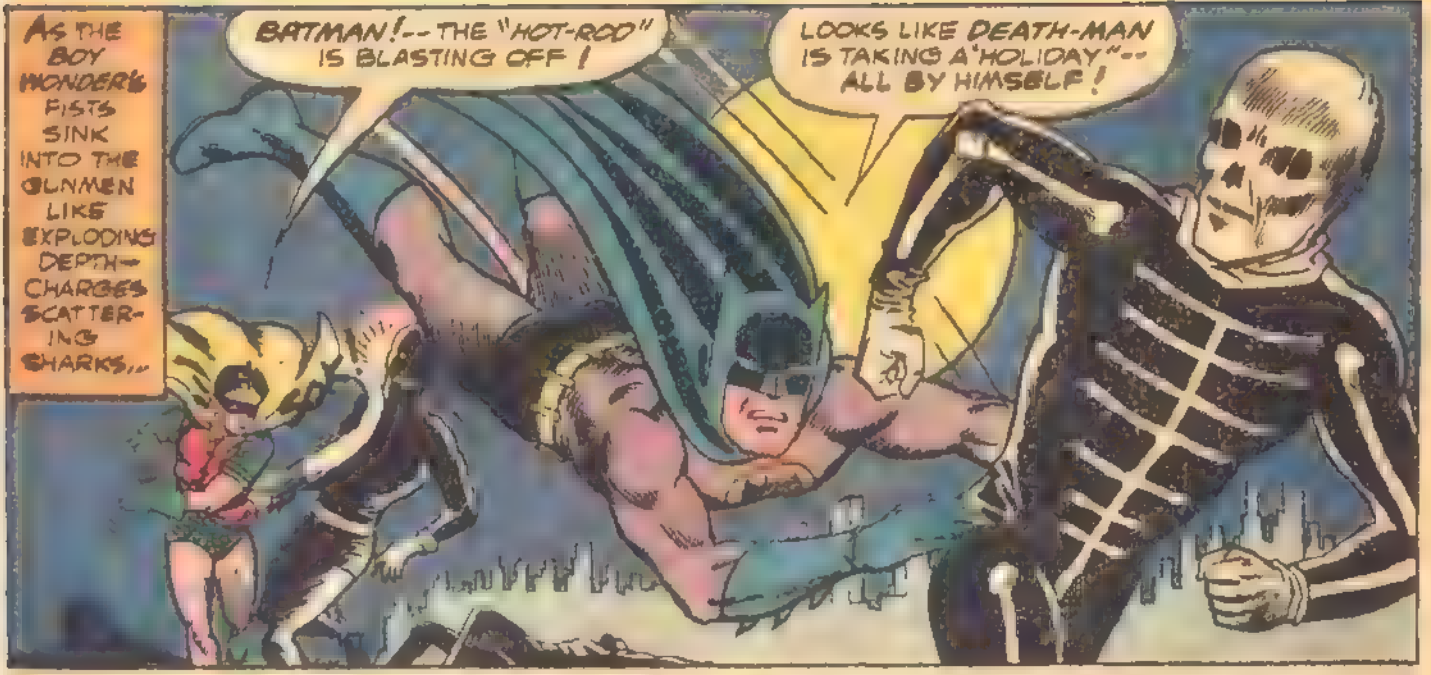




AS THE  
BOY  
WONDER'S  
FISTS  
SINK  
INTO THE  
GUNMEN  
LIKE  
EXPLODING  
DEPTH-  
CHARGES  
SCATTER-  
ING  
SHARKS...

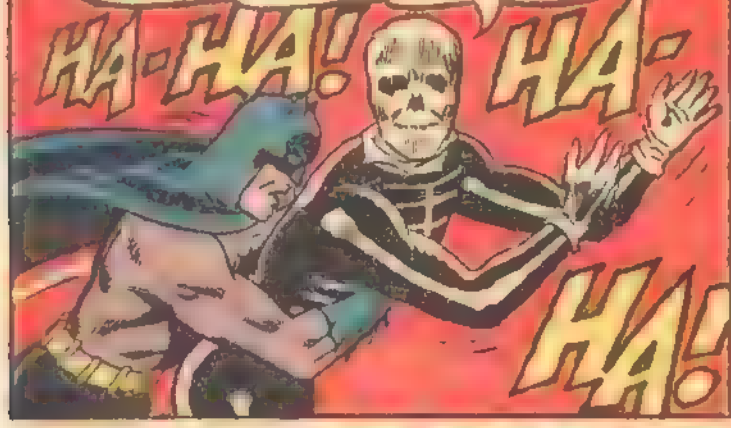
BATMAN!-- THE "HOT-ROD"  
IS BLASTING OFF!

LOOKS LIKE DEATH-MAN  
IS TAKING A 'HOLIDAY'---  
ALL BY HIMSELF!

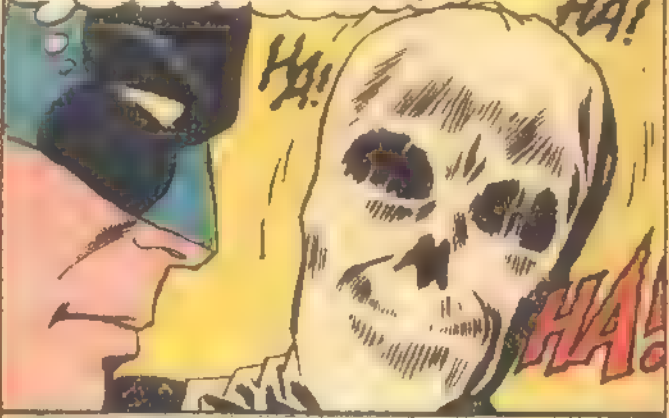


EVEN THOUGH BATMAN'S HANDS CLOSE LIKE  
HANDCUFFS AROUND THE EERIE FIGURE-- HIS  
BLOOD TURNS TO ICE AT THE CHILLING LAUGHTER..

HA-HA-HA! DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'VE  
CAPTURED ME? YOU'VE NOTHING BUT THE  
BLACK SHADOW OF DEATH IN YOUR HANDS!  
I CAN DRIFT RIGHT BETWEEN YOUR FINGERS  
LIKE SMOKE--ANYTIME I WISH!



I NEVER HEARD ANY CRIMINAL SO CONFIDENT  
OF ESCAPE! AT THE VERY MOMENT OF HIS  
CAPTURE! HOW COULD HE BE SO SURE?  
HOW?--HOW?--HOW?



THE EERIE BATTLE BETWEEN BATMAN AND  
HIS SPECTRAL FOE CONTINUES WITH SOARING  
SUSPENSE ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING!

**DON'T  
HESITATE--  
CHOOSE...**

**The MAGS  
with the  
GO-GO  
CHECKS!**

**SUPERMAN  
DC  
NATIONAL COMICS**

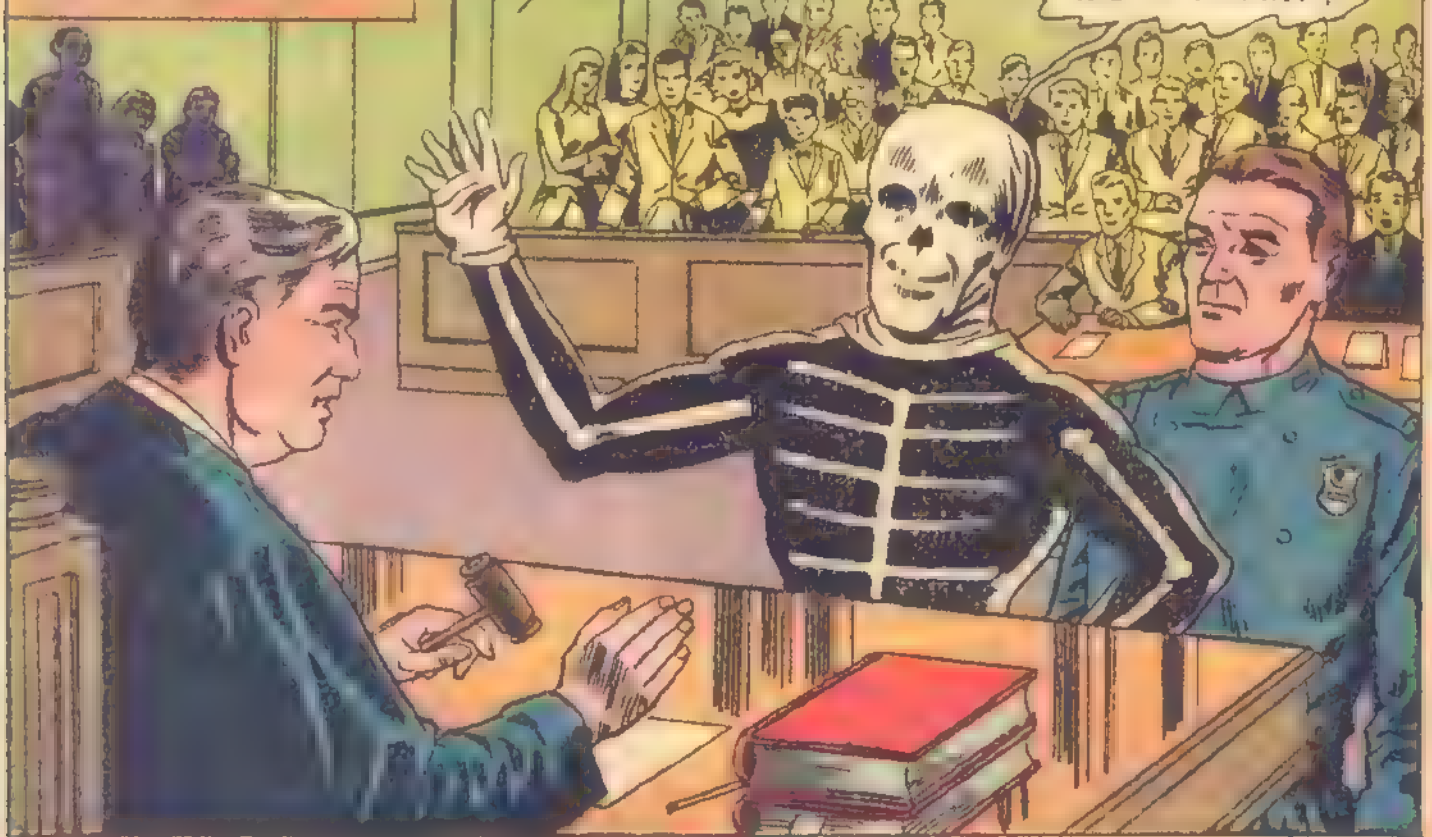


# DEATH KNOCKS THREE TIMES! PART 2

BATMAN AND ROBIN'S CAPTURE OF THE SINISTER DEATH-MAN, WHOSE UNIFORM GRAFTED ON TO HIM, CANNOT BE REMOVED, RESULTS IN A SPEEDY TRIAL WITH THE 'NEVITABLE' ENDING FACED BY ALL CRIMINALS... BUT EVEN SO... BERTIE LAUGHTER CHILLS THE COURTROOM AS...

SINCE THE JURY UNANIMOUSLY FOUND YOU GUILTY--THE DEATH PENALTY IS MANDATORY! I THEREFORE SENTENCE YOU TO DEATH IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE LAWS OF THIS STATE--

HA! HA! HA!  
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU HAVE THE POWER TO SENTENCE ME TO DEATH?



I-- AND I ALONE POSSESS THE POWER OVER LIFE AND DEATH! I AM BEYOND YOUR FEEBLE LAWS! YOU CAN NO MORE JAIL A SHADOW--OR PUNISH IT-- THAN M-M-M--



HE--HE'S NOT BREATHING... HIS PULSE HAS STOPPED BEATING!-- HE'S DEAD!



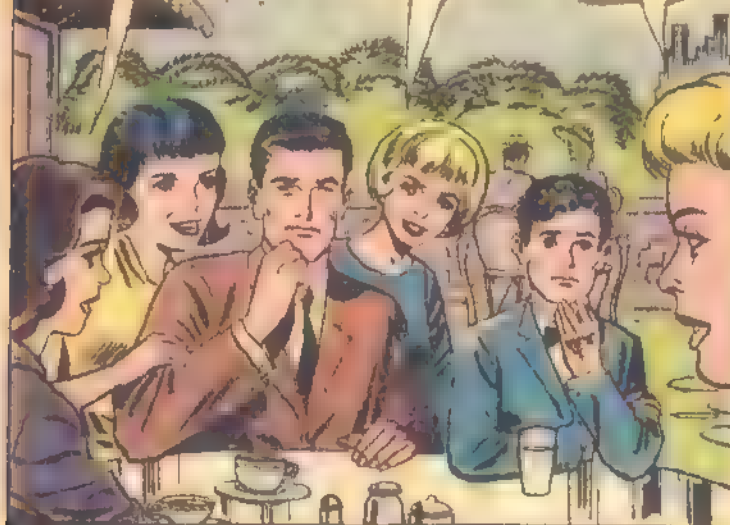


IN GOTHAM'S TAVERN-ON-THE-GREEN, AFTER THE SPECTACULAR CONCLUSION TO THE TRIAL...

BRUCE?...BRUCE, DARLING--YOU'RE NOT WITH US!

THAT'S OBVIOUS, DARLING! ISN'T HE, DARLINGS?

BUT--WHERE IS HE?



EXCUSE ME, GIRLS! I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I HAD TO DO! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK--IN A DAY OR SO! CHARLES--SEE THAT THE LADIES HAVE EVERYTHING THEY WANT!

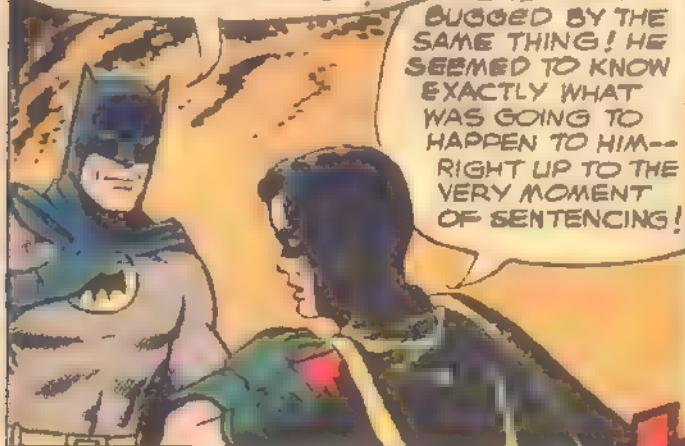
THEY'LL LACK FOR NOTHING--EXCEPT YOUR COMPANY, MR. WAYNE!



THE MILLIONAIRE SPORTSMAN AND HIS YOUTHFUL WARD HURRY TO THE BATCAVE WHERE...

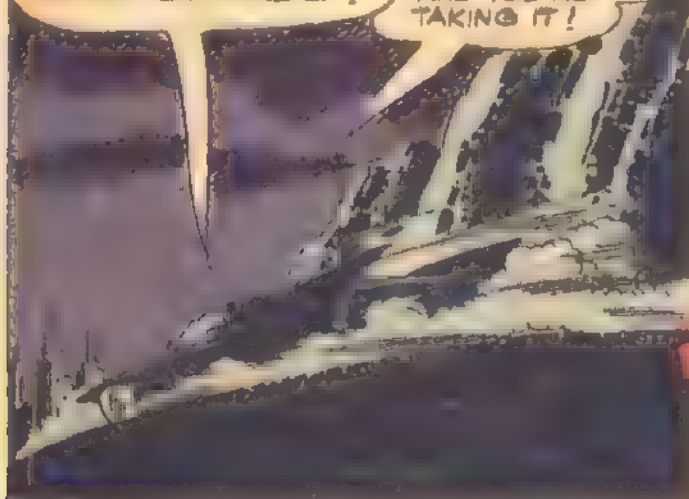
MAYBE YOU'LL THINK I'M FLIPPING--BUT I CAN'T GET DEATH-MAN'S MOCKING LAUGHTER--JUST WHEN I CAUGHT HIM--OUT OF MY HEAD! HOW COULD HE HAVE BEEN SO CONFIDENT HE WOULDN'T PAY FOR HIS CRIME?

I'VE BEEN BUGGED BY THE SAME THING! HE SEEMED TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN TO HIM--RIGHT UP TO THE VERY MOMENT OF SENTENCING!



IT ISN'T HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO BE THAT CONFIDENT! UNLESS--HE WAS ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE THAT HE WOULD ESCAPE THROUGH THE USE OF SOME GIMMICK THAT WE WERE COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OF CHECKING--AND YOU'RE TAKING IT!



AT A GRAVEYARD, AT THE CITY'S OUTSKIRTS...

I COULD HAVE SWORN--? WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW! IT'S DEATH-MAN ALL RIGHT! DESPITE ALL HIS MOCKING LAUGHTER AT ME--AND THE LAW!

LOOKS LIKE THE LAST LAUGH WAS ON HIM!





BUT, IN THE NIGHTS THAT FOLLOW--BRUCE IS HAUNTED BY HOLLOW LAUGHTER...

FOOL! DO YOU REALLY  
THINK YOU'VE CAPTURED  
ME?

HA!  
HA!  
HA!

HA!

HA!

YOU'VE NOTHING BUT THE  
BLACK SHADOW OF  
DEATH IN YOUR HANDS!  
I CAN DRIFT RIGHT BE-  
TWEEN YOUR FINGERS  
LIKE SMOKE--ANYTIME  
I WISH!

HA!

HA!

HA!



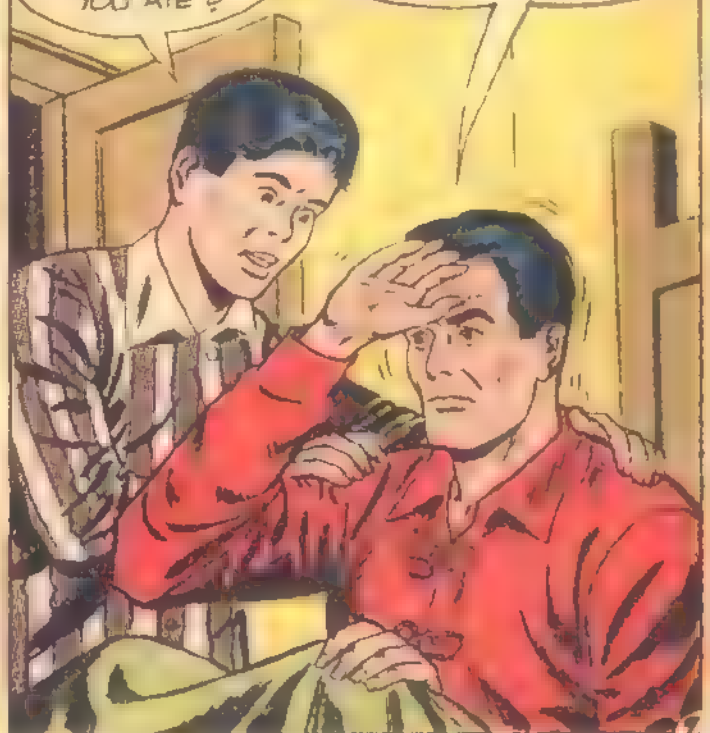
JUST IMAGINE--I COULD KILL YOU-- AND NO  
LAW COULD TOUCH ME--BECAUSE--HOW CAN  
YOU PROSECUTE A DEAD MAN?

HA! HA! HA!  
HA!  
HA!

NO!  
NO!  
NO!

WAKE UP, BRUCE!  
WAKE UP! YOU  
MUST HAVE BEEN  
HAVING A KING-SIZE  
NIGHTMARE! I  
HEARD YOUR  
MOANS CLEAR  
ACROSS TO MY  
ROOM! WHAT WAS  
IT? SOMETHING  
YOU ATE?

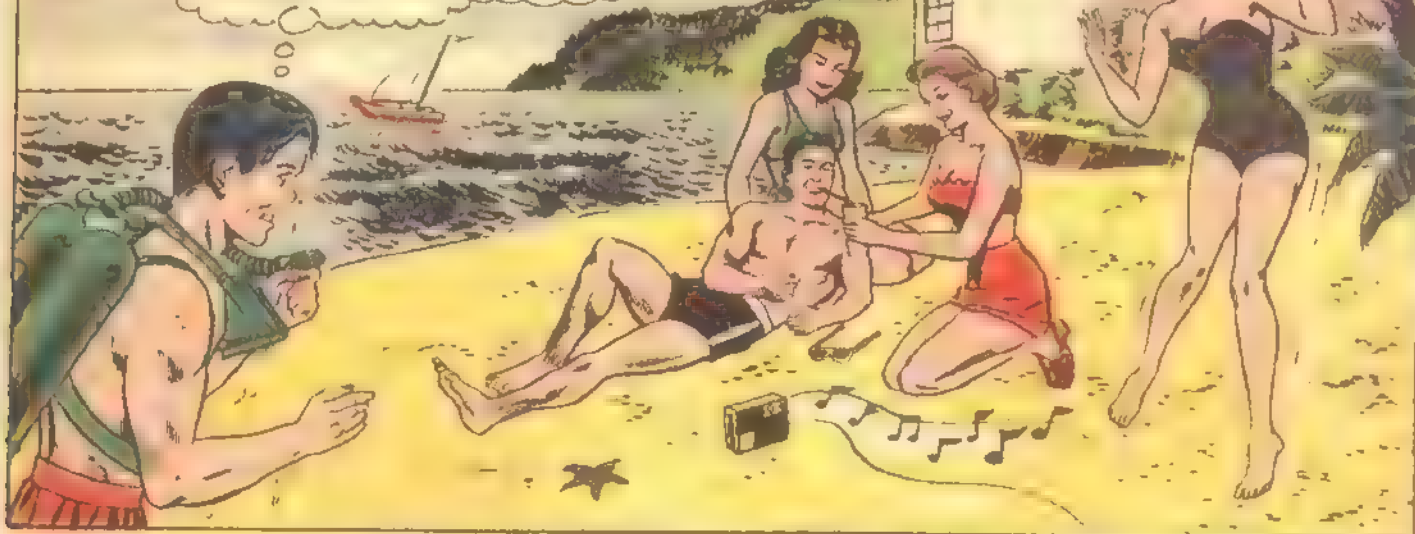
N-NO... "SOMETHING" I  
CAN'T "DIGEST"... I--I  
THINK A CHANGE OF  
SCENE WILL DO ME  
GOOD--HELP ME FOR-  
GET SOMETHING THAT  
NEEDS FORGETTING!  
TELL YOU WHAT--LET'S  
GO SCUBA-DIVING--  
IN JAMAICA--





A FEW DAYS LATER...

THIS MUST BE WHAT THEY CALL "DRYLAND" FISHING! EVER SINCE WE LANDED HERE -- BRUCE HASN'T BEEN NEARER WATER THAN THE ICE IN THAT SOFT DRINK HE'S BEEN DIVING INTO --

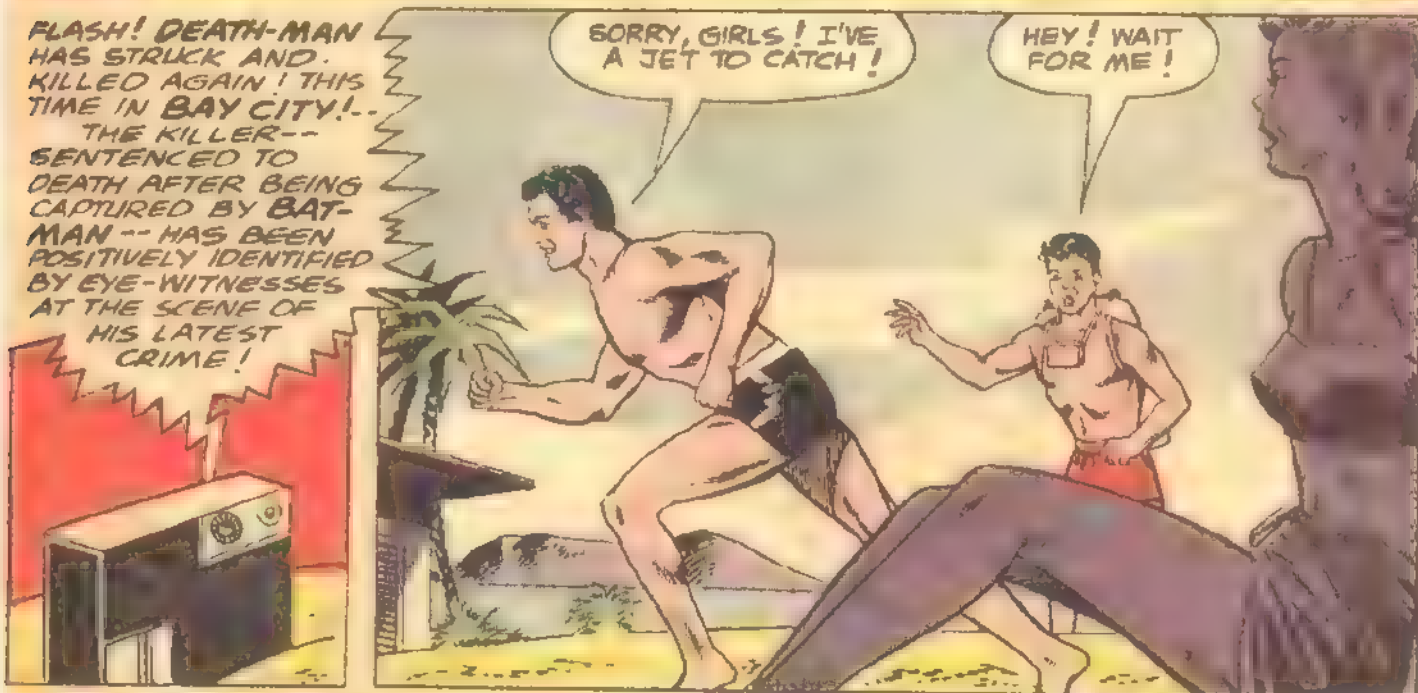


FLASH! DEATH-MAN HAS STRUCK AND KILLED AGAIN! THIS TIME IN BAY CITY! --

THE KILLER -- SENTENCED TO DEATH AFTER BEING CAPTURED BY BAT-MAN -- HAS BEEN POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED BY EYE-WITNESSES AT THE SCENE OF HIS LATEST CRIME!

SORRY, GIRLS! I'VE A JET TO CATCH!

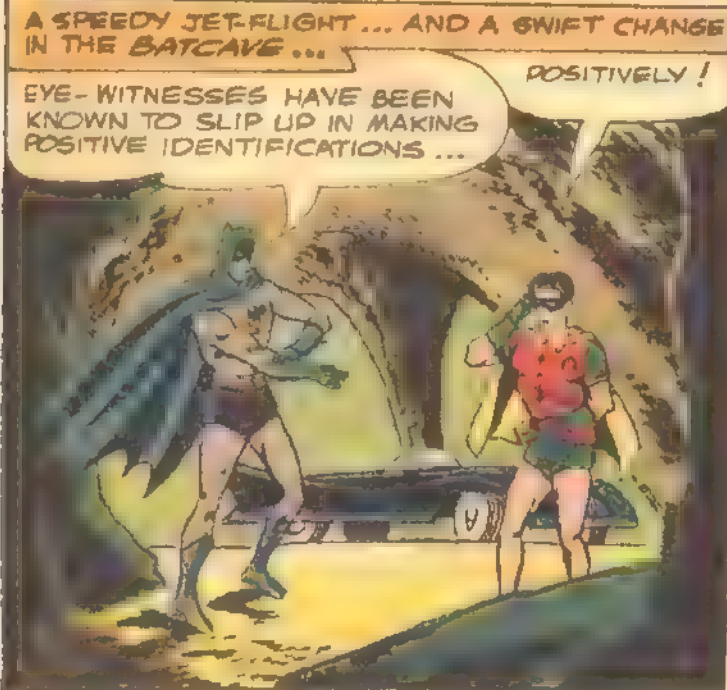
HEY! WAIT FOR ME!



A SPEEDY JET-FLIGHT ... AND A SWIFT CHANGE IN THE BATCAVE ...

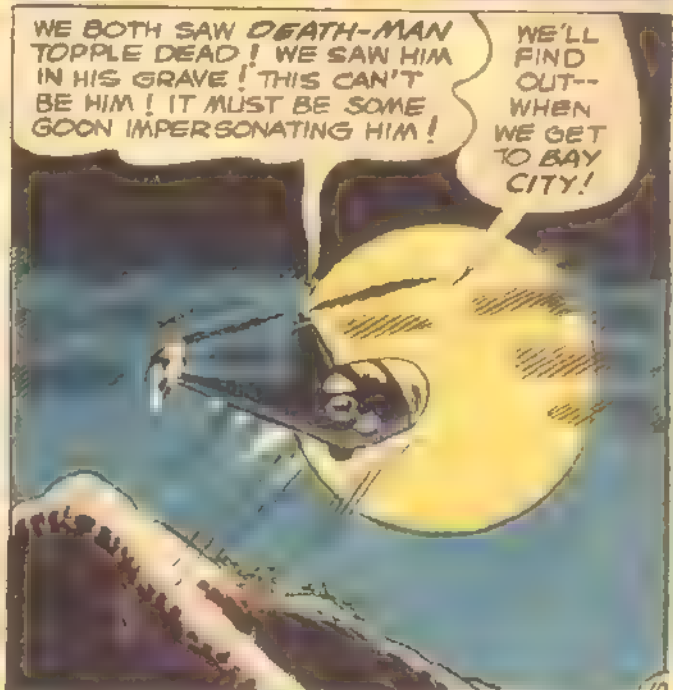
EYE-WITNESSES HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO SLIP UP IN MAKING POSITIVE IDENTIFICATIONS ...

POSITIVELY!



WE BOTH SAW DEATH-MAN TOPPLE DEAD! WE SAW HIM IN HIS GRAVE! THIS CAN'T BE HIM! IT MUST BE SOME GOON IMPERSONATING HIM!

WE'LL FIND OUT -- WHEN WE GET TO BAY CITY!





AS THE BAT-COPTER GLIDES TOWARD BAT CITY...

A.R.B.!-- DEATH-MAN AND HIS NEW HENCHMEN WERE LAST SEEN HEAD-ING FOR ROUTE 66-A-- IN THE BLACK FUNERAL COACH IN WHICH THEY MADE THEIR GETAWAY FROM THEIR LATEST HOLDUP! IT IS REPORTED ARMORED AS BULLETS HAVE RICOCHETED OFF ITS SIDES...



BLACK FUNERAL COACH SPEEDING ALONG ROUTE 66-A! THAT MUST BE IT BELOW! I'LL GO NEARER AND CHECK--



AS A HAIL OF BULLETS SUDDENLY POURS FROM THE RACING GETAWAY CAR...

WE "KNOCKED" AND THEY "ANSWERED" WITH LEAD! IT'S THE GANG ALL RIGHT! BUT WHETHER IT'S DEATH-MAN IS ANOTHER MATTER!

SEEING IS BELIEVING! LET'S SEE!



FROM THE SWOOPING BAT-COPTER HURTLB...

OUR SMOKE-GRENADES COULD STOP THEM-- BUT THEY MISSED!



MAYBE THE BEST WAY TO SCORE A BULL'S-EYE-- IS TO STAND RIGHT ON IT!

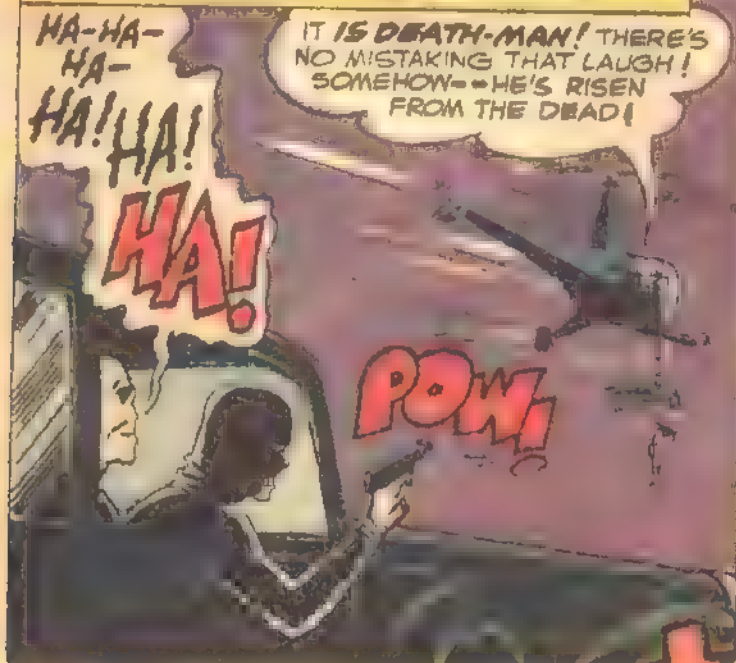
HEY-- THAT'S NOT FAIR, BATMAN! IT WAS MY IDEA!



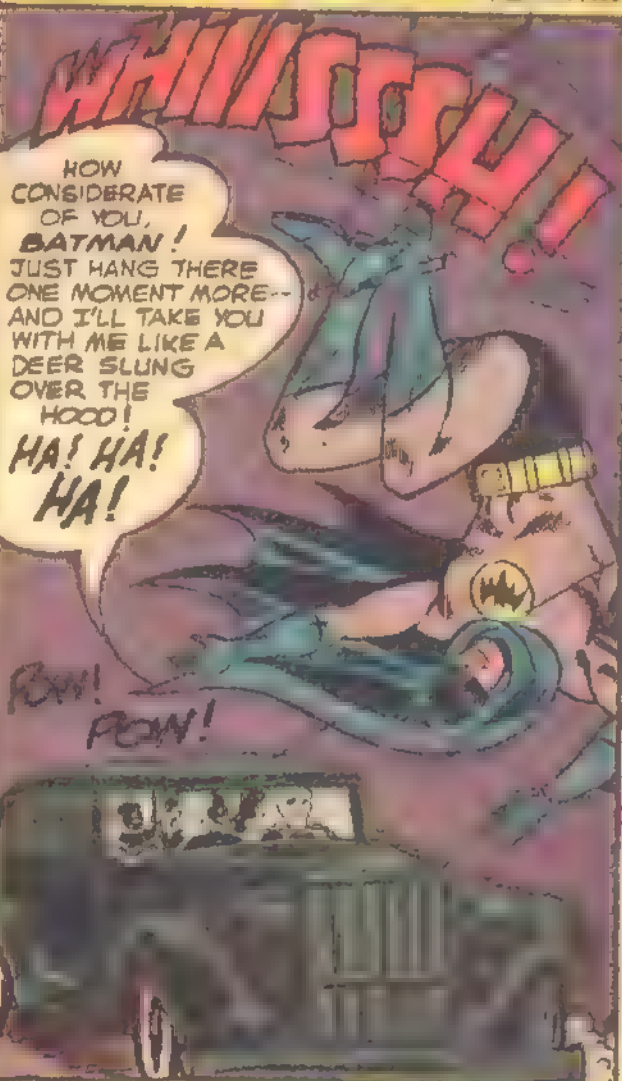
AGE BEFORE BRAINS, ROBIN! I NEED A COOL, STEADY HAND AT THE CONTROLS! LOWER AWAY-- RIGHT ONTO THE TARGET!



AS THE FEARLESS MASKED MANHUNTER IS LOWERED TOWARD THE DEATH CAR...



AS & BY THE FIGURE-OF-DEATH'S COMMAND, A VIOLENT GUST OF WIND ALMOST HURLS BATMAN FROM HIS PRECARIOUS PERCH...



YOU'RE A BRAVE MAN, **BATMAN**-- RISKING A SECOND MEETING WITH DEATH! BUT YOU'RE ALSO A FOOL! YOU'LL HANG FOR YOUR FOOLHARDINESS!



THE ASTOUNDING CONCLUSION TO "DEATH KNOCKS THREE TIMES" WILL MAKE YOU DOUBT YOUR OWN SENSES--AS IT CONTINUES WITH BOILING SUSPENSE ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING !!

# An APOLOGY to OUR FANS--

FOR PICKING THIS CHARACTER TO BE THE LEADER OF

The **INFERIOR** **five**  
THE MOST DISASTROUS COLLECTION OF DUMB CLUCKS IN DC HISTORY!



YOU WANT SUPERMAN? YOU WANT LEE CHAGIN? NOW MEET THE HERO WHO'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING LIKE THEM--WHO IS IN FACT ABSOLUTELY NOTHING

# MERRYMAN

IF YOU'VE GOT 12¢ TO WASTE, BUY THE MAY-JUNE ISSUE OF **SNOWCASE** ON SALE MAR. 24th



IF YOU'RE SURE YOU'RE NOT AFRAID TO WALK THROUGH A GRAVEYARD AT MIDNIGHT-- THEN GO AHEAD AND GASP AT THE STARTLING CONCLUSION TO...

# DEATH KNOCKS THREE TIMES

AS HE DANGLES PRECARIOUSLY UPSIDE DOWN FROM THE BAT-COPTER, LIKE AN AERIAL TON-TARGET, BATMAN HEARS THE UNMISTAKABLE CHILLING LAUGHTER OF...

HA-HA-HA--  
ISN'T IT NICE OF  
BATMAN TO GIVE  
US TARGET PRACTICE?

WE'LL FILL  
HIM SO  
FULL OF  
SLUGS  
HE'LL BE  
ABLE TO  
SELL SHARES  
IN HIMSELF  
LIKE HE WAS  
A LEAD  
MINE!

THE MASKED DETECTIVE'S DARING TOSSE EXPLODES THE SMOKE GRENADE RIGHT ON THE GETAWAY CAR'S HOOD!

CAN'T  
SEE--!

THEY'LL BE  
LAUGHING WITH  
SMOKE IN  
THEIR EYES!

**BAM!**

AND THEN--BY FATE'S GRIMMEST IRONY...

THE KILLER'S GETAWAY  
CAR--RUNNING BLIND--!  
RAMMED BATMAN  
ONTO ITS HOOD!

**THUD!**

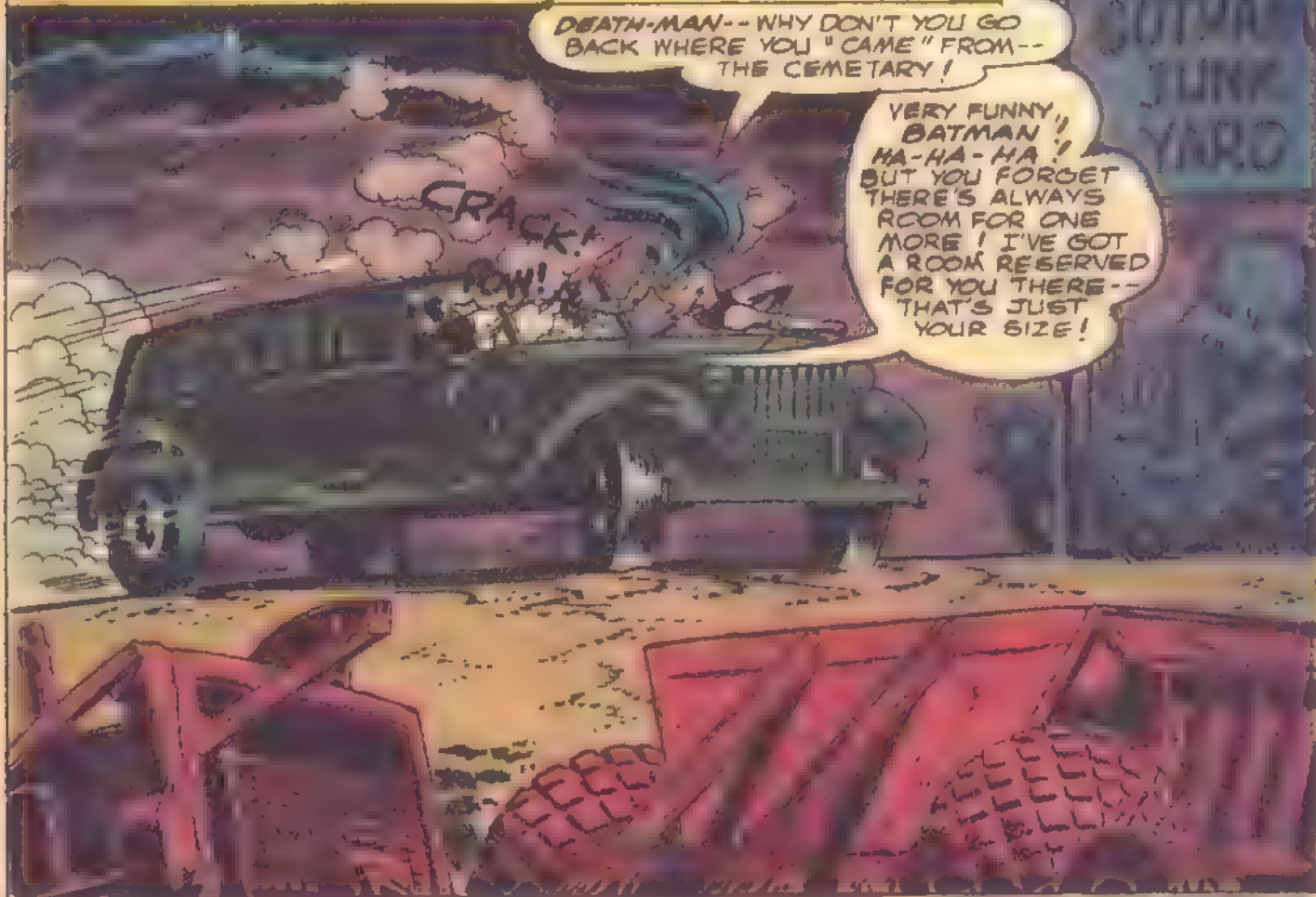
THAT SPINE-FREEZER!  
IT'S DEATH-MAN'S  
LAUGH ALL RIGHT!  
LIKE A BUZZARD  
AT A BANQUET!



AS BATMAN FIGHTS BOTH THE WAVES OF DARKNESS WHICH ROLL OVER HIM AS HE CLINGS DESPERATELY TO THE HOOD OF THE WIDELY-CAREENING DEATH-CAR AND THE SMOKE-BLINDED KILLERS...

DEATH-MAN-- WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK WHERE YOU "CAME" FROM-- THE CEMETARY!

VERY FUNNY, BATMAN!  
HA-HA-HA!  
BUT YOU FORGET THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE! I'VE GOT A ROOM RESERVED FOR YOU THERE-- THAT'S JUST YOUR SIZE!



THE MASKED DETECTIVE'S WILD PUNCHES FORCES THE GANGSTER GETAWAY CAR TO ZIGZAG CRAZILY INTO ...

WE'RE IN A "GRAVEYARD" OF RUSTING MACHINES!

POW! POW!  
SCREEECH!



AS THE CAR SCREECHES AROUND THE JUMBLE OF MACHINERY...

THIS IS THE END OF THE RIDE FOR YOU, BATMAN!  
AND THERE ARE NO "TRANSFERS" ON THIS LINE!

SHOOOSH!!





AS BATMAN LIES MOMENTARILY STUNNED, THE DEATH-CAR BACKS UP.

I CAN GUARANTEE YOU GUYS ONE THING! UNLIKE ME-- WHEN THEY PRONOUNCE BATMAN DEAD-- HE WON'T BE ABLE TO COME BACK FOR A REPEAT PERFORMANCE!

THAT GOON'S GOT IT WRONG--DEATH-MAN'S AIMING TO KILL ME!

DEATH-MAN-- YOU KILL ME! HA-HA-HA!

WHROOSH!

AT THE LAST SPLIT-SECOND, AS THE CRUSHING WHEELS WHIRL DOWN AT HIM...

I'LL ROLL IN BETWEEN THE WHEELS WHERE THAT GIGGLING GHOUL WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE ME!

WE DIDN'T GET BATMAN! AFTER HIM!

WHROOSH!

I DON'T LIKE THIS "BALL GAME"! NOT WHEN DEATH-MAN'S USING ME FOR THE "BALL"!

I'VE GOT TO CHANGE PLACES WITH THAT DEMOLITION BALL... BEFORE DEATH-MAN TAKES ANOTHER "SWING" AT ME!

GRIMLY, THE MASTER ATHLETE HURLS HIS ENTIRE WEIGHT AGAINST THE MASSIVE IRON BALL AS...

HERE HE COMES! BUT--I HAVEN'T MADE THE BALL SWING HARD ENOUGH TO PUT A DIMPLE IN A BLONDE'S CHEEK!

POW!

AS BATMAN DESPERATELY SWINGS BACK ON THE HUGE BALL...

BATMAN IS PUTTING ON A GOOD ACT! BUT LET'S MAKE SURE IT'S HIS "FAREWELL PERFORMANCE"! APPLAUD HIM WITH LEAD!

BAH! BAH!



BUT THE ACE  
ATHLETE  
SCHEMERSAULTS  
AWAY FROM  
THE CRUSH-  
ING IRON  
BALL JUST  
AS...

BONG!

CRASH!!

I HOPE THE "HOUSE-WRECKERS  
UNION" WON'T BE MAD AT ME FOR  
WORKING WITHOUT A CARD! BUT I  
HAD TO TAKE THIS "JOB" IN A HURRY!

AS THE FEARLESS CRIME-FIGHTER FACES  
THE SNARLING GUNMEN--THE KY-VOICED  
DEATH-MAN COMMANDS...

BATMAN'S NOT LIKE ME! HE'S ONLY  
HUMAN! FILL HIM FULL OF HOLES!  
AND WE'LL WRAP HIM UP LIKE SWISS  
CHEESE!

BAM!

AT THAT MOMENT...

AS FAR AS I KNOW,  
BATMAN CAN'T  
SWALLOW SWORDS,  
GOLDFISH OR  
LEAD! I'D  
BETTER GO  
DOWN TO  
GIVE HIM A  
HAND!

LIKE A HUMAN WRECKING BALL, THE BOY  
WONDER CATAPULTS INTO THE STARTLED  
GANG...

AS LONG AS THE  
'COPPER CIRCLES ON  
AUTOMATIC PILOT--I'LL  
BE ABLE TO PLAY  
"POP GOES THE  
'COPPER WEASELS"  
WITH THESE--  
WHAT ELSE?

WHAT  
ACT ARE  
YOU  
AUDITIONING,  
ROBIN?





WHILE THE DARING ROBIN WHIRLS AROUND THE STARTLED GUNMEN...



LET'S  
PLAY  
MERRY-  
GO-  
ROUND...



I'LL GO ROUND  
WHILE YOU BE  
MERRY...



WHAT'S THE  
MATTER?  
NOBODY WANT  
TO PLAY?

THE MASKED MANHUNTER IS ON A PERILOUS  
CHASE AS...



DEATH-MAN IS  
ESCAPING -- COVERED  
BY THREE OF HIS GUNBELS!  
IF I DON'T CATCH HIM --  
I'LL NEVER FIND OUT HOW  
HE ESCAPED FROM HIS  
LAST 'REST HOME'  
AFTER HE WAS  
PRONOUNCED  
DEAD!

BATMAN SNEAKS AROUND IN FRONT OF  
THE KILLERS UNTIL...



I'LL ROOST UP  
HERE IN THIS STEAM  
SHOVEL UNTIL THEY PASS  
UNDER ME! HOPE THEY  
DON'T SPOT ME FIRST--  
OR I'LL BE A DEAD  
ROOSTER!



MOMENTS LATER, THE SHADOWY DEATH-MAN AND HIS RUTHLESS KILLERS RACE TOWARD...

LOOKS LIKE OUR SLUGS SCARED THE CAPE OFF BATMAN!

THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD JOKE FOR A HIGH CLASS MORON LIKE YOU! HA-HA-HA!

GOSH-- WISH DEATH-MAN WOULD PRAISE ME LIKE THAT!

SUDDENLY...

HOW SPORTING OF YOU, BATMAN-- GIVING MY MEN A BETTER SHOT AT YOU! HE'S EASY GAME NOW, MEN!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU, DEATH-MAN--?

I'M NOT PLAYING GAMES ANYMORE--

PERIOD!

RELENTLESSLY, THE MAN-HUNTER CLOSES IN ON THE BERRIE KILLER...

FOOL! DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'VE CORNERED ME? HA-HA-HA-HA!

HOW CAN HE LAUGH WHEN HE KNOWS I'VE REALLY GOT HIM BOXED IN? WHAT DOES HE KNOW--THAT I DON'T?

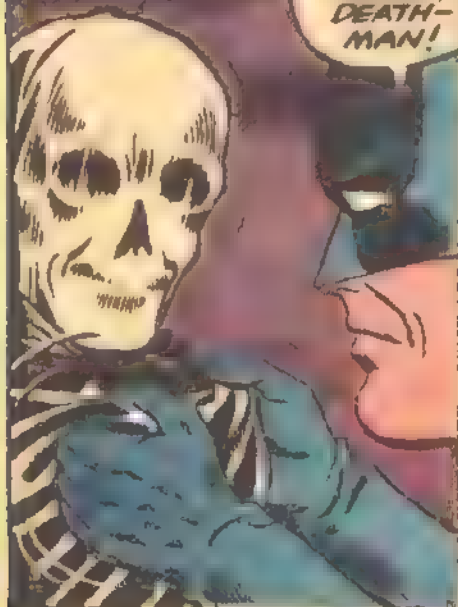


EVEN AS BATMAN'S HANDS  
CLOSE IN ON HIS FOE LIKE  
A STEEL VISE...

SO YOU THINK YOU'VE  
CAPTURED ME? WHY--  
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING  
BUT THE BLACK SHADOW  
OF DEATH IN YOUR HANDS!  
I CAN DRIFT RIGHT BETWEEN  
YOUR FINGERS LIKE  
SMOKE--ANYTIME  
I WISH!

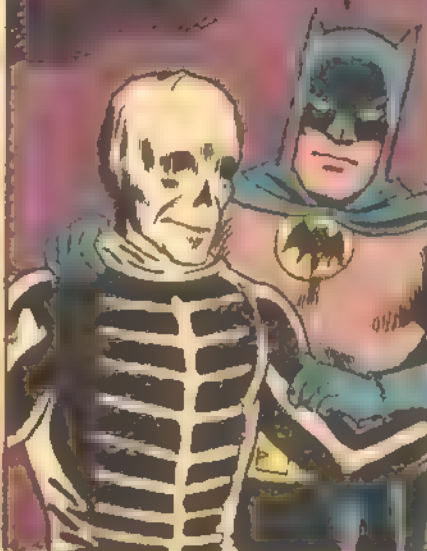
HA-HA-HA-HA!

YOU'VE  
HAD  
YOUR  
THREE  
WISHES,  
DEATH-  
MAN!



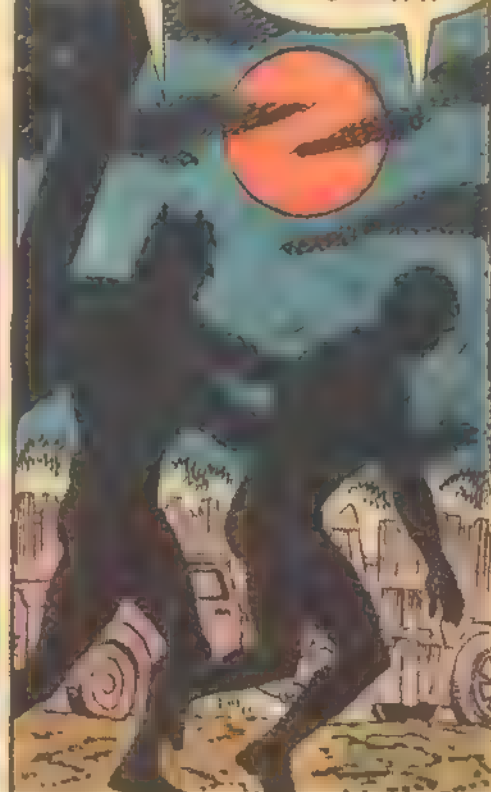
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO  
DO WITH ME, BATMAN?  
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO  
PUNISH A MAN DECLARED  
DEAD? I COULD MURDER  
YOU--AND NO LAW COULD  
TOUCH ME! BECAUSE--  
HOW CAN YOU  
PROSECUTE A  
DEAD MAN?  
BE HONEST!  
ADMIT IT!

BE  
PATIENT..  
I'LL  
THINK  
OF SOME-  
THING!



IF YOU'RE  
TOO TIRED  
TO WALK  
TO JAIL--  
I'LL  
CARRY YOU!

FOOL! I AND I  
ALONE-- POSSESS  
THE POWER OF  
DEATH! YOU  
CAN NO MORE  
JAIL A  
SHADOW--  
THAN-- THAN  
M--UHHH...



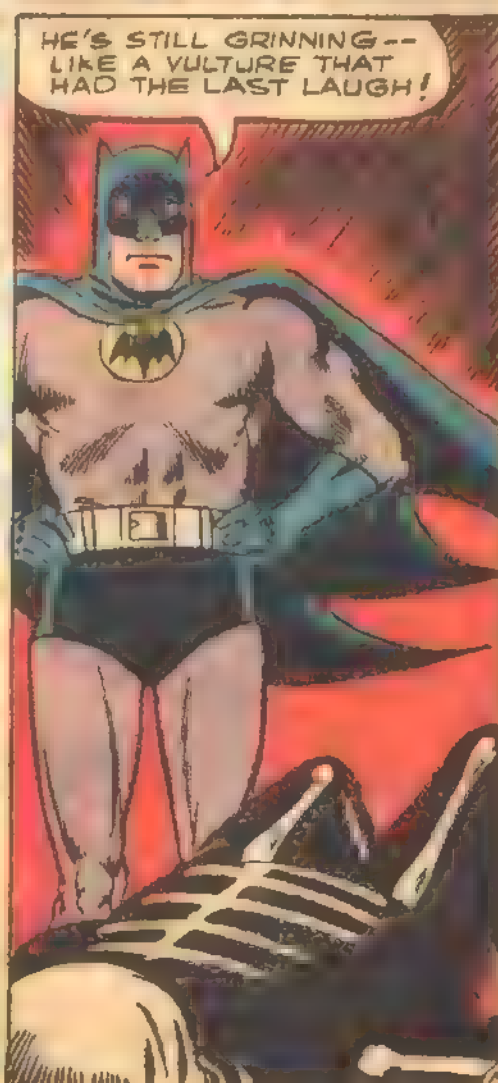
NO HEARTBEAT!  
THIS IS A DREAM--  
I'M GOING TO  
WAKE UP ANY  
MINUTE!



NO  
PULSE!  
IT--IT  
CAN'T  
BE  
HAPPENING  
AGAIN!



HE'S STILL GRINNING--  
LIKE A VULTURE THAT  
HAD THE LAST LAUGH!





ONCE AGAIN, BATMAN KEEPS A CHILLING VIGIL ...

HE REALLY DID IT! DEATH-MAN PULLED OFF THE GREATEST "ESCAPE" IN HISTORY! NOT ONCE--BUT TWICE!

WELL--THERE WON'T BE A THIRD TIME FOR HIM! SEEING IS BELIEVING! AND YOU'RE SEEING HIM--FOR THE LAST TIME!

CURTAIN GOING DOWN FOR GOOD THIS TIME! HIS ACT IS OVER!

AND NOBODY'S APPLAUDING FOR ENCORES!

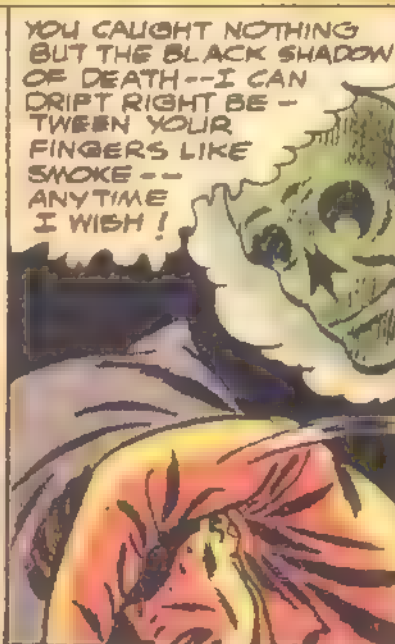


THAT SAME NIGHT--THE MASKED PURSUER FINDS HIMSELF THE PURSUED--IN A NIGHT-MARE ...

FOOL! DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'VE CAPTURED ME?

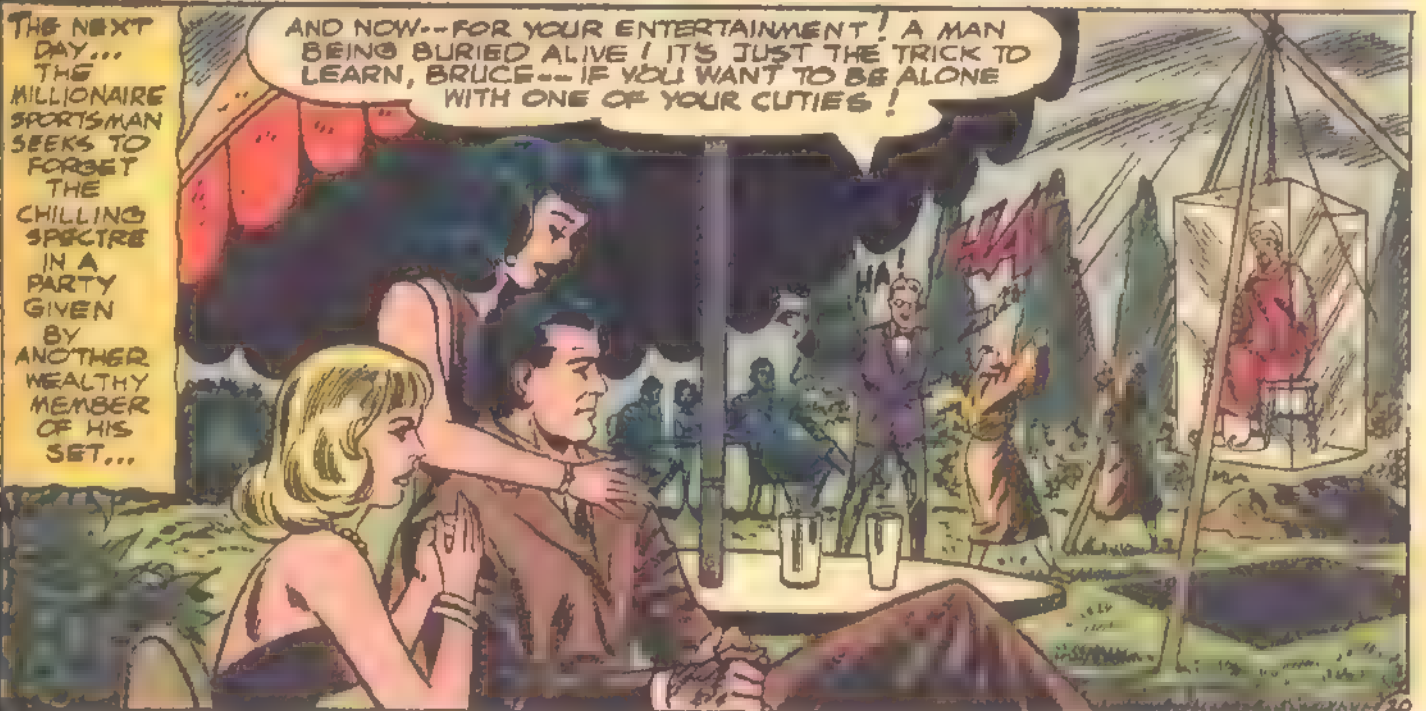


YOU CAUGHT NOTHING BUT THE BLACK SHADOW OF DEATH--I CAN DRIFT RIGHT BETWEEN YOUR FINGERS LIKE SMOKE--ANYTIME I WISH!

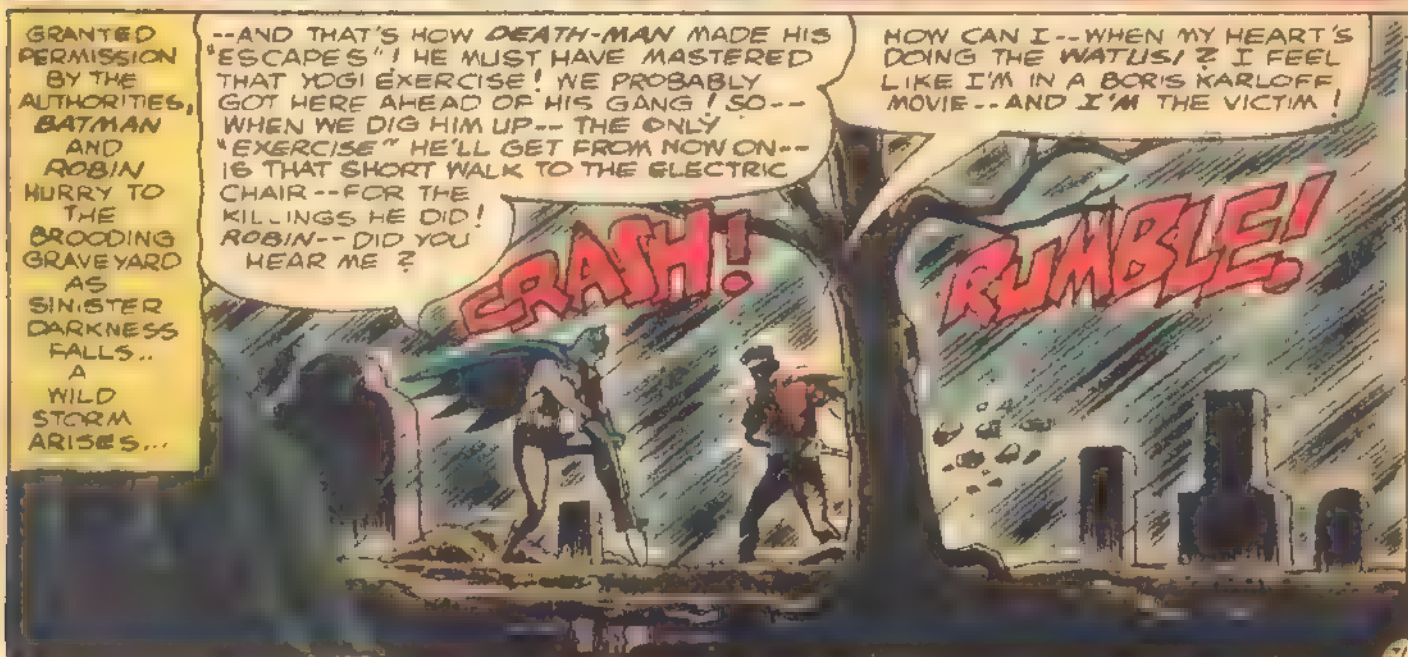
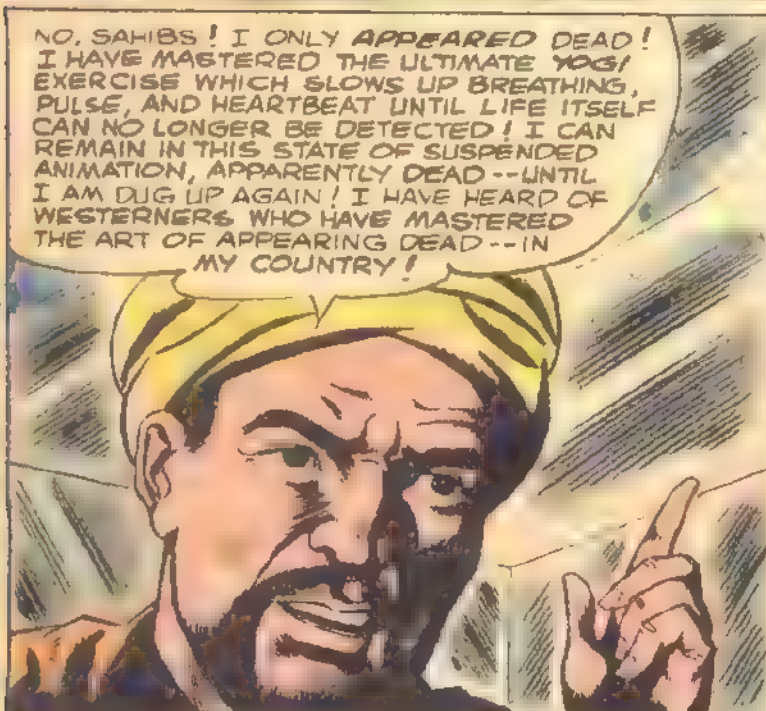
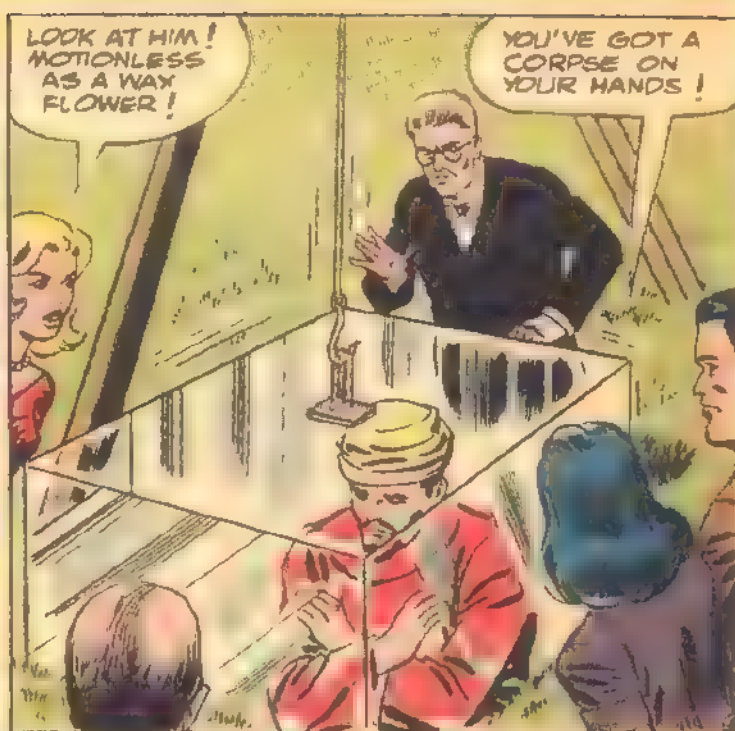


THE NEXT DAY... THE MILLIONAIRE SPORTSMAN SEEKS TO FORGET THE CHILLING SPECTRE IN A PARTY GIVEN BY ANOTHER WEALTHY MEMBER OF HIS SET...

AND NOW--FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT! A MAN BEING BURIED ALIVE! IT'S JUST THE TRICK TO LEARN, BRUCE--IF YOU WANT TO BE ALONE WITH ONE OF YOUR CUTIES!









AS A LIGHTNING BOLT MAKES THE SCENE GLOW WITH A BALEFUL LIGHT...

EMPTY!-- DEATH-MAN "VACATED" HIS "LEASE" EVEN SOONER THAN I EXPECTED!

LOOK! HE LEFT A "VALENTINE NOTE" BEHIND!



DEAR BATMAN:  
SINCE YOU SEEM TO BE SPENDING ALL YOUR SPARE TIME IN GRAVEYARDS LATELY--I'M "RESERVING" THIS "UNDERGROUND SUITE" EXCLUSIVELY FOR YOU!

DEATH-MAN!



ICY LAUGHTER SHRIEKS EVEN ABOVE THE WILD WIND AND THE LASH OF LIGHTNING...

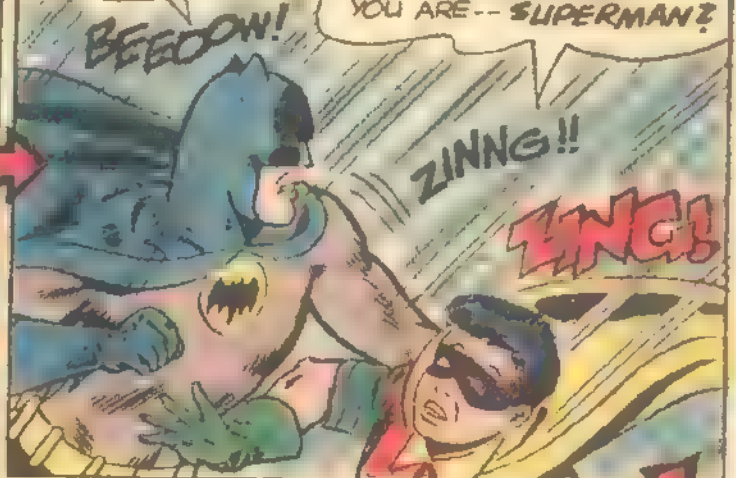
NA-HA-HA! I KNEW YOU'D COME AROUND TO "HAUNT" ME AGAIN, BATMAN! SO NOW I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU A GENUINE GHOST!



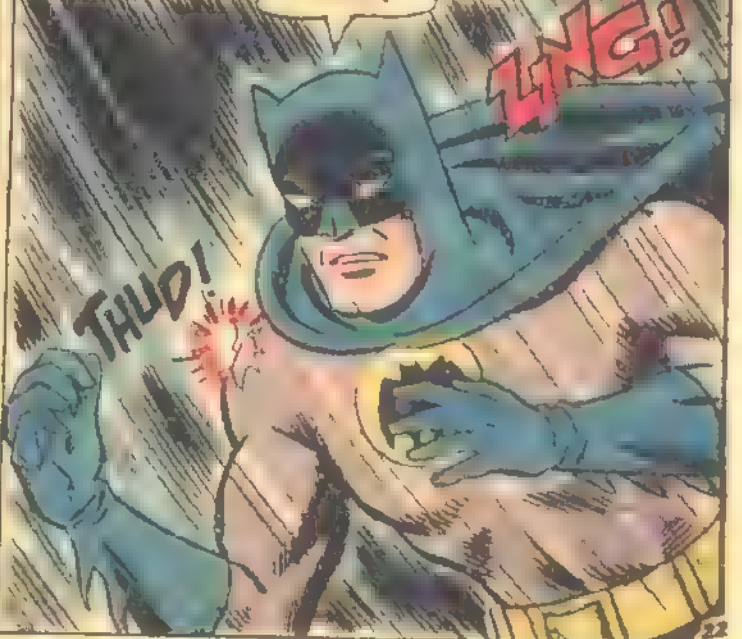
AS FLAMING LEAD SIZZLES BY...

ROBIN-- STEP TO THE REAR OF THE CAR, PLEASE!

BATMAN-- YOU CAN'T USE YOURSELF AS A HUMAN SHIELD TO STOP THOSE BULLETS FROM REACHING ME! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE-- SUPERMAN?



UHHHH-- NO, ROBIN-- I JUST FOUND OUT-- I'M NOT!





FIGHTING TO FORGET THE SEARING BULLET PAIN BLAZING INSIDE HIM--THE GOTHAM GANGBLUSTER BARRELS INTO...

I'VE GOT TO PULL THE CARPET OUT FROM UNDER THESE HOODS...



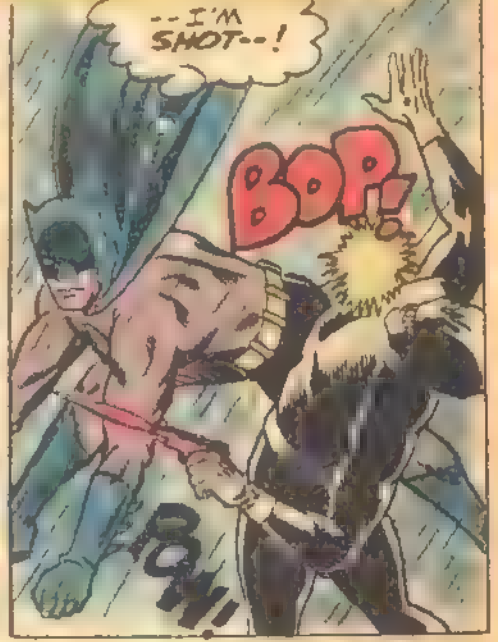
SOCK!

--BEFORE THEY FIND OUT...



SOCK!

--I'M SHOT--!

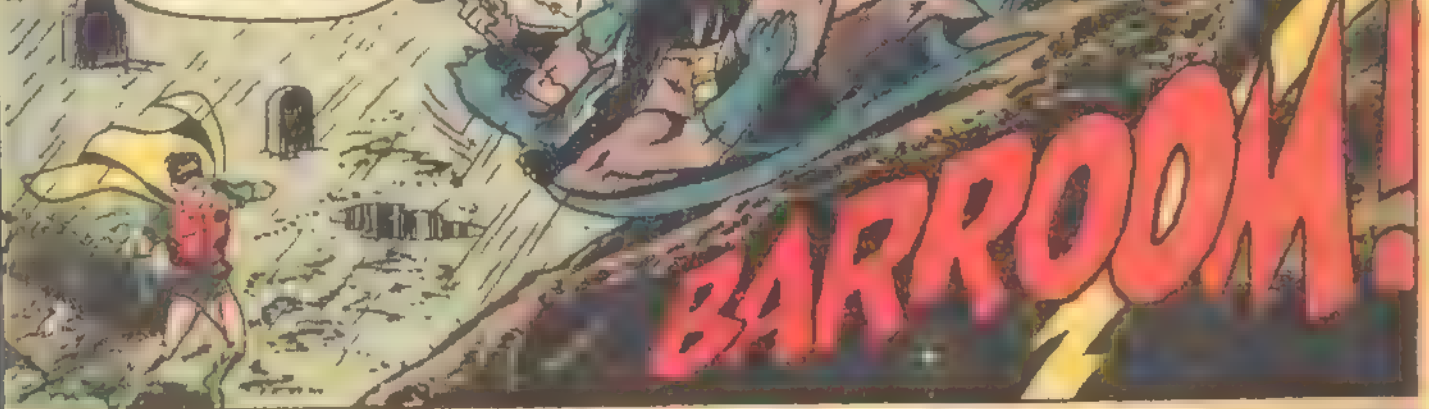


BOP!

DESPERATELY, THE WOUNDED BATMAN SENDS HIS RELENTLESS ADVERSARY HURLING DOWN THE EMBANKMENT WITH HIM AS...

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN SHOT, BATMAN! YOUR STRENGTH IS POURING OUT OF YOU LIKE SAND FROM AN HOUR GLASS! YOU'VE CHOSEN A GOOD PLACE FOR YOUR FINISH!

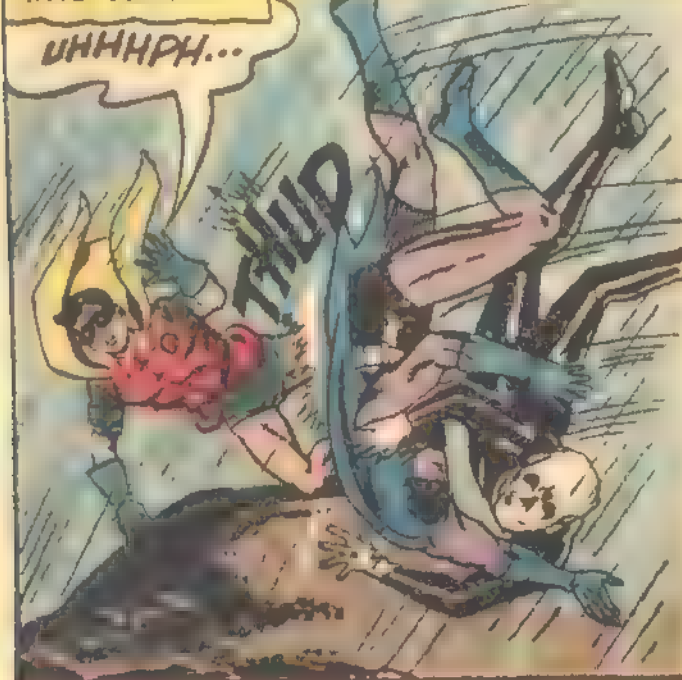
HA-HA-HA!



BARROOM!

THE FRENZIED OPPONENTS CANNONBALL INTO ROBIN...

UHHHPH...



THUD

VAINLY, BATMAN CALLS UPON HIS BLEEDING WILL...

I--I-- CAN'T... MAKE... IT...

YOU WERE BEATEN FROM THE START, BATMAN-- WHEN YOU DARED TO MATCH WITS WITH ME! NOW-- YOU'LL LIVE ONLY UNTIL IT TAKES ME TO LOWER THIS GUN ON A LINE WITH YOUR HEAD! AND NO YOGI TRICK CAN SAVE YOU FROM DEATH!

HA-HA-HA-HA!





THE CHILLING LAUGHTER IS TORN IN TWO BY A WHITE-HOT FLASH AS...

THE GUN--  
ATTRACTED  
THE  
LIGHTNING!

HE WAS ELECTROCUTED--JUST AS  
SURELY--AS IF HE WERE--IN THE  
ELECTRIC CHAIR! HIS SENTENCE  
WAS CARRIED OUT!

AS THE BATTERED CRIME FIGHTERS LIMP  
AWAY...

DEATH-MAN  
WAS WRONG... NO CRIMINAL...  
IS EVER BEYOND THE  
REACH... OF JUSTICE!

...EVEN IF IT  
HAS TO REACH  
FOR HIM...  
FROM THE  
SKY!

THUS ENDS BATMAN'S ELECTRIFYING  
BATTLE AGAINST THE CRIMINAL WHO  
"CAME BACK" FROM THE GRAVE TWICE  
TO FIGHT HIM-- ONLY TO DISCOVER  
THAT--"DEATH KNOCKS THREE TIMES!"

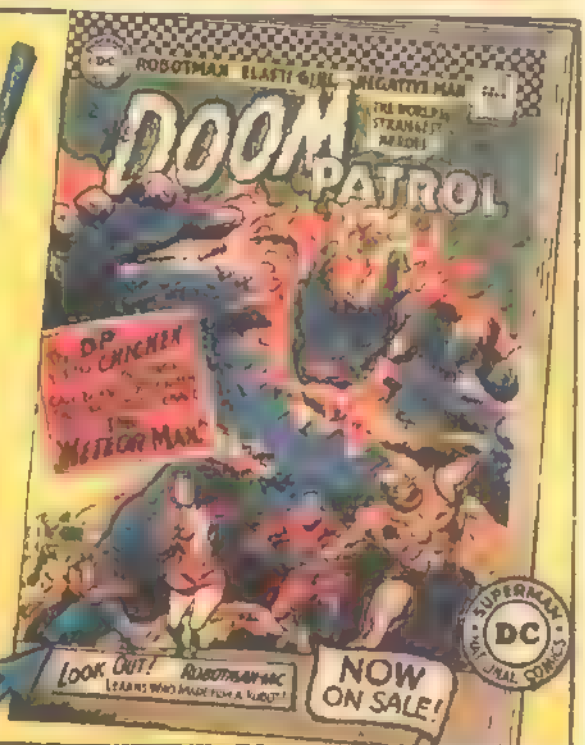
# STILL TOPS 'EM ALL!

Here are the **ORIGINAL**  
**WORLD'S STRANGEST HEROES!**  
in THE MAGAZINE  
THAT DARES TO BE  
**DIFFERENT!**

SEE THIS FABULOUS FOURSOME--  
ROBOTMAN, ELASTI-GIRL,  
NEGATIVE MAN and THE CHIEF--  
PLUS THAT SWINGIN' TEEN,  
BEAST-BOY BATTLE...  
"the **METEOR MAN!**"

THRILL TO ANOTHER  
ROBOTMAN-IAC ADVENTURE,  
A SUPER-SUSPENSE STORY  
ABOUT THE WORLD'S WILDEST  
MANHUNT...  
"NO HOME FOR  
A ROBOT!"

in the latest, greatest issue of





# PART THREE

## TALIA AL GHUL AND THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS

YOUR MOVE,  
BE LOVED

TO BE CONTINUED IN  
**2012!**



DC DETECTIVE  
COMICS



MAY  
NO. 411

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE



15c

Detective Comics presents

# BATMAN AND BATGIRL



**"INTO THE  
DEN OF THE DEATH-DEALERS!"**



THE NIGHT BREATHES SOOT-COLORED FOG... AND THERE IS A STILLNESS BROKEN ONLY BY GASPS OF WIND AND THE MUFFLED LAPPING OF THE SEA. ACROSS THE BAY, THE LIGHTS OF THE CITY GLOW DIMLY, COLDLY, LIKE BEACONS OF HELL...

SILENT AND MOTIONLESS AS A BIRD OF PREY, THE DREAD **BATMAN** PERCHES ATOP THE **STATUE OF FREEDOM**, WAITING, WAITING...

AT THIS TIME, THIS PLACE, IT BEGINS... A TERROR-FRAUGHT JOURNEY BY...

# THE BATMAN

## -- "INTO THE DEN OF THE DEATH-DEALERS!"

STORY: DENNY O'NEIL  
ART: BOB BROWN  
AND  
DICK GIORDANO

DETECTIVE COMICS, No. 412, May, 1971. Published monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dicks Sts., Sparta, Ill. 62286. EDITORIAL, EXECUTIVE OFFICES, 909 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Editor: Len Wein; Editor: Carmine Infantino; Editorial Director: Sanjivan Prasad; Managing Secretary: Joyce Paul; Publisher: Dennis O'Neil. Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y., and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Please send address changes to DETECTIVE COMICS, 909 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Copyright © 1971 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Under International and Pan American Copyright Conventions, this publication and its characters and contents are registered at the Library of Congress, Copyright Clearance Center, Inc., and other copyright offices. All other characters and contents are the property of their respective owners. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission in writing from the publisher.

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INSIDE THE MASSIVE  
SCULPTURE'S TORCH,  
A FURTIVE FIGURE  
SPLASHES LIGHT  
INTO THE SHADOWS,  
HIS VOICE HISSING  
IN HOARSE WHISPER...

BATMAN...YOU  
HERE?

I AM!

YOU LEFT A  
MESSAGE WITH  
COMMISSIONER  
GORDON ASKING  
ME TO MEET  
YOU HERE?

YEAH...I WANNA  
MAKE A **TRADE!**  
IN EXCHANGE FOR  
**PROTECTION**, I'LL  
TELL YOU HOW  
YOU CAN NAB  
**DR. DARRK--**

--AND BUST THE  
**LEAGUE OF  
ASSASSINS** WIDE  
OPEN!

WHY?  
WHAT  
DO YOU  
GAIN?

MY **LIFE!** SEE, I  
**CROSSED DARRK...**  
HE'LL GET ME  
UNLESS YOU GET  
HIM **FIRST!**

EVEN AS **THE BATMAN** AND  
THE COWED CRIMINAL CONFER,  
A PAIR OF CLOAKED FORMS  
SLITHERS STEALTHILY TOWARD  
THEM...

THE DEAL I  
WANTA MAKE  
IS...

GYAHNN!

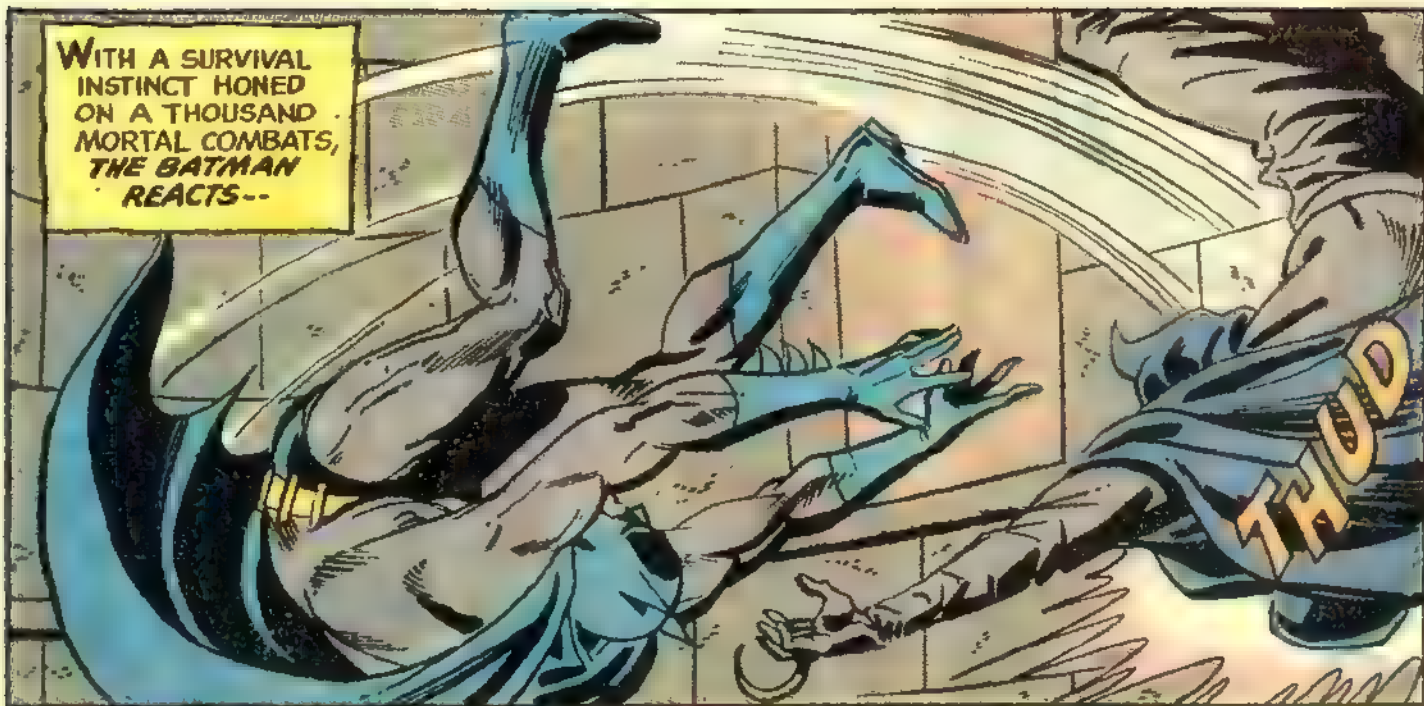
WHAT'S THE  
MATTER--?

**DEATH** TO OUR  
FOES--! **DEATH**  
TO ALL FOES  
OF OUR  
**LEAGUE--**

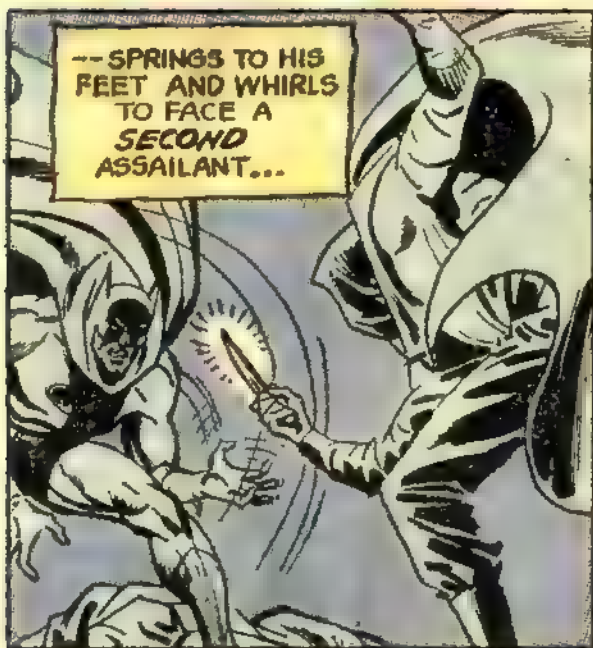
--INCLUDING  
**THE BATMAN!**



WITH A SURVIVAL  
INSTINCT HONED  
ON A THOUSAND  
MORTAL COMBATS,  
THE BATMAN  
REACTS--



--SPRINGS TO HIS  
FEET AND WHIRLS  
TO FACE A  
SECOND  
ASSAILANT...



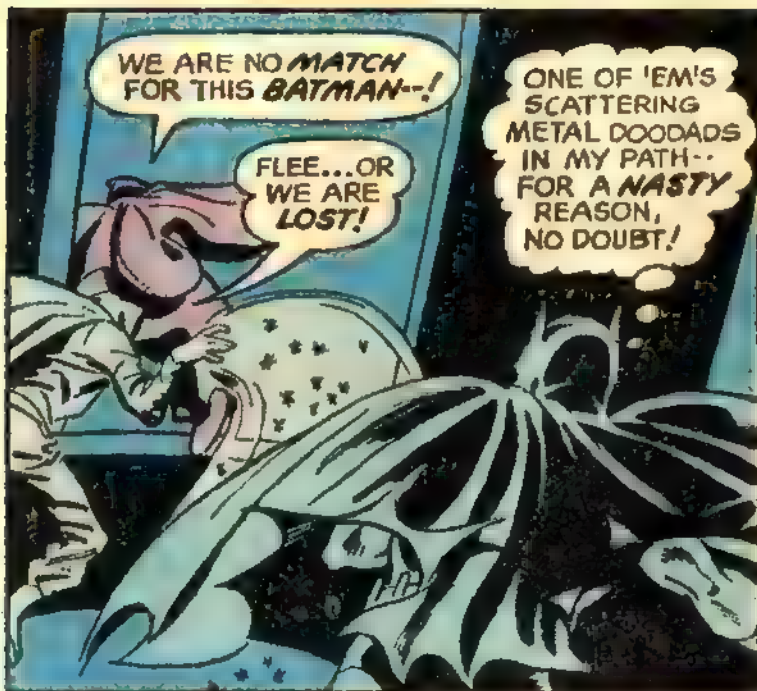
--FOR HE IS  
MASTER OF  
ALL FIGHTING  
ARTS, HIS  
SUPERB SKILL  
MATCHED  
ONLY BY HIS  
COURAGE!...



WE ARE NO MATCH  
FOR THIS BATMAN--!

FLEE...OR  
WE ARE  
LOST!

ONE OF 'EM'S  
SCATTERING  
METAL DOODADS  
IN MY PATH--  
FOR A NASTY  
REASON,  
NO DOUBT!



AS I THOUGHT! A JAPANESE  
TETSU-BISHI... A SIX-PROLONGED  
TACK WITH RAZOR POINTS!

IF ONE OF THESE HAD  
GONE THROUGH MY  
BOOT-SOLE, I'D BE OUT  
OF ACTION BUT GOOD--  
CRIPPLED!

BAAT... BAAT-MAN-N...







HE'S PALE AS A GRAVESTONE...

STEADY, FELLA!  
I'LL RUSH  
YOU TO A  
DOCTOR--

N-NO  
GOOD...  
POISON  
ON  
CLAW...  
DYING!



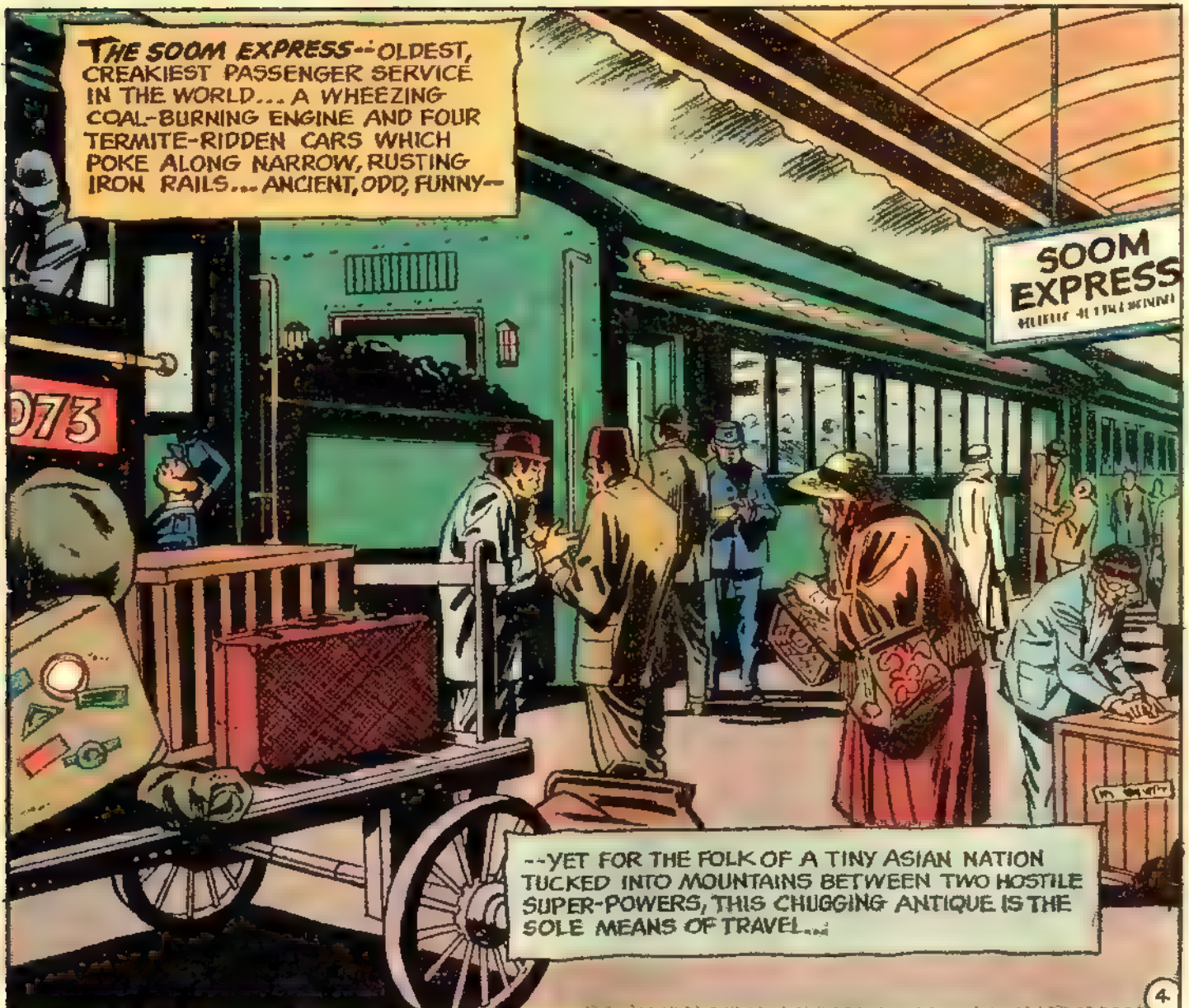
FILTHY... DOG DARRK...  
BE ON SOOM EXPRESS  
NEXT TUESDA... AAGHHH!



ANOTHER OF DARRK'S  
VICTIMS--DEAD!  
KILLED IN MY  
PRESENCE--!

THE LEAGUE OF  
ASSASSINS HAS  
BESTED ME  
ONCE MORE!

BUT IT  
WON'T  
HAPPEN  
AGAIN--  
I SWEAR  
IT  
WON'T!

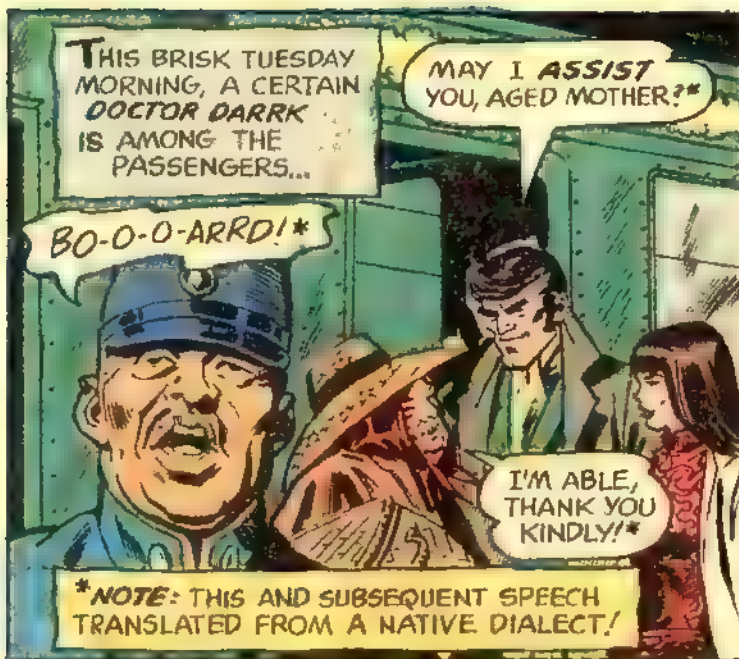


THE SOOM EXPRESS--OLDEST,  
CREAKIEST PASSENGER SERVICE  
IN THE WORLD... A WHEEZING-  
COAL-BURNING ENGINE AND FOUR  
TERMITE-RIDDEN CARS WHICH  
POKE ALONG NARROW, RUSTING  
IRON RAILS... ANCIENT, ODD, FUNNY--

SOOM  
EXPRESS  
DELIVERED BY THE SOOM LINE

--YET FOR THE FOLK OF A TINY ASIAN NATION  
TUCKED INTO MOUNTAINS BETWEEN TWO HOSTILE  
SUPER-POWERS, THIS CHUGGING ANTIQUE IS THE  
SOLE MEANS OF TRAVEL...





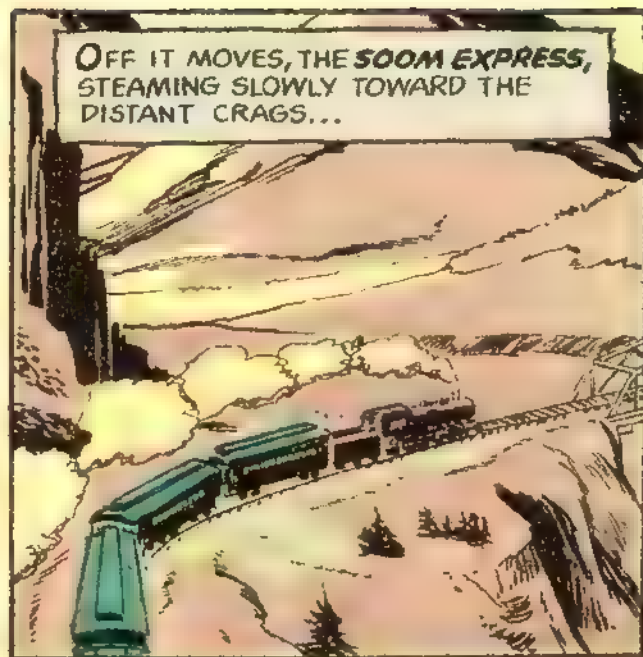
THIS BRISK TUESDAY MORNING, A CERTAIN DOCTOR DARRK IS AMONG THE PASSENGERS...

MAY I ASSIST YOU, AGED MOTHER?\*

BO-O-O-ARRD!\*

I'M ABLE, THANK YOU KINDLY!\*

\*NOTE: THIS AND SUBSEQUENT SPEECH TRANSLATED FROM A NATIVE DIALECT!



OFF IT MOVES, THE SOOM EXPRESS, STEAMING SLOWLY TOWARD THE DISTANT CRAGS...



...WHILE INSIDE THE REAR COACH, PASSENGERS SWELTER AND SHAKE, THEIR EYES SMARTING FROM THE ENGINE'S OILY SMOKE...



AN HOUR OUT FROM THE STATION, AS THE TRAIN BEGINS TO CLIMB A LONG STEEP GRADE, DOCTOR DARRK AND HIS LOVELY COMPANION RISE, AND PUSH THROUGH THE NARROW AISLE...

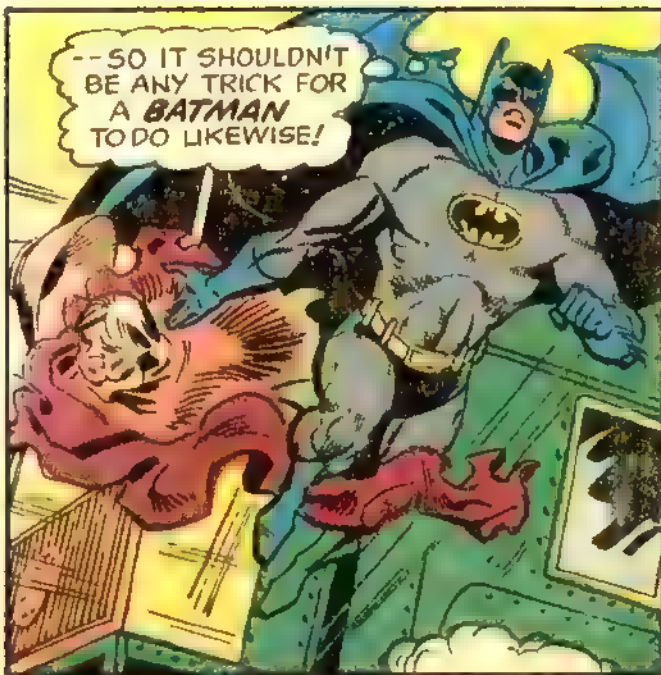
COME, MY DEAR! IT IS TIME WE DEPART!

WE'RE NOT NEAR ANY STOPPING POINT! HE MUST BE PLANNING TO JUMP--

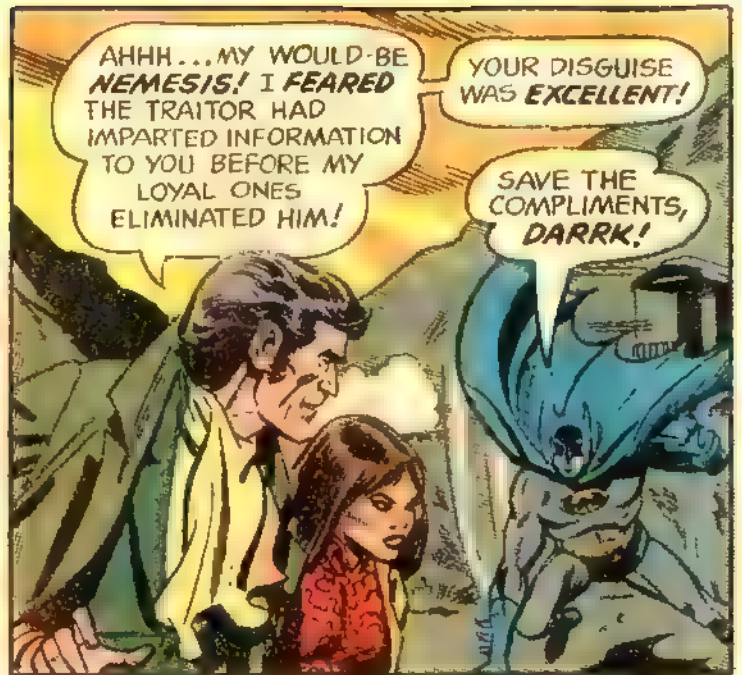


THERE THEY GO--! THIS HILL'S SLOWED THE TRAIN ENOUGH TO LET THEM LEAP SAFELY--





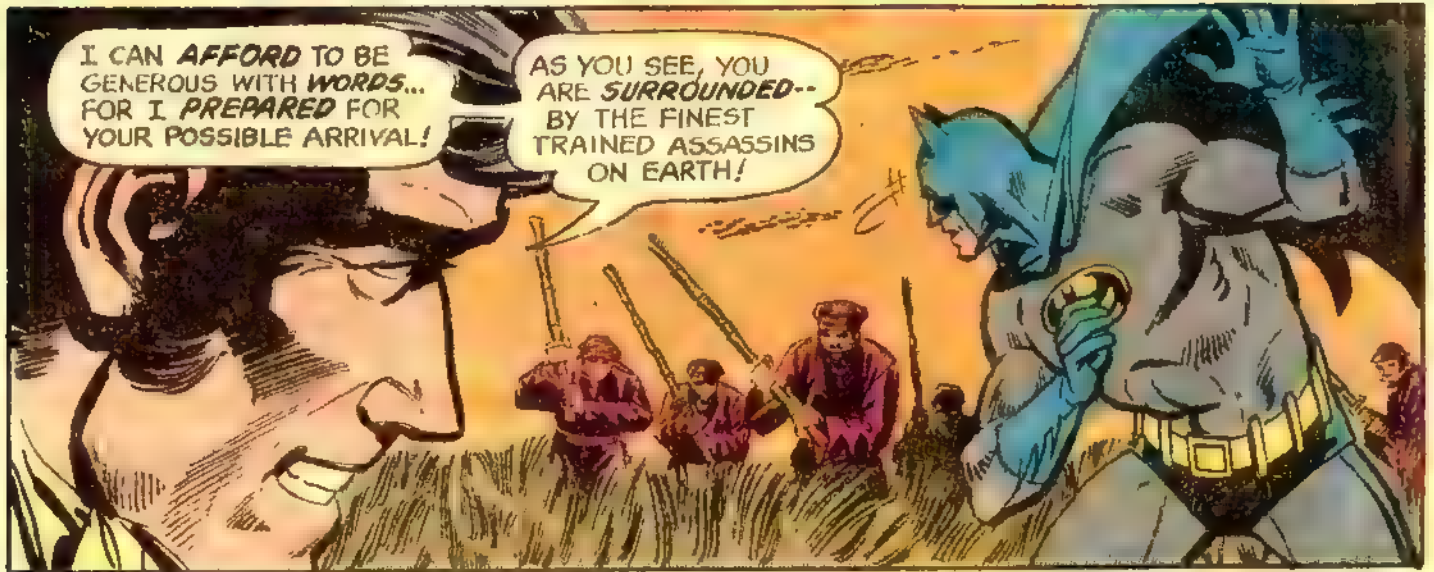
-- SO IT SHOULDN'T  
BE ANY TRICK FOR  
A **BATMAN**  
TO DO LIKEWISE!



AHHH...MY WOULD-BE  
**NEMESIS!** I **FEARED**  
THE TRAITOR HAD  
IMPARTED INFORMATION  
TO YOU BEFORE MY  
LOYAL ONES  
ELIMINATED HIM!

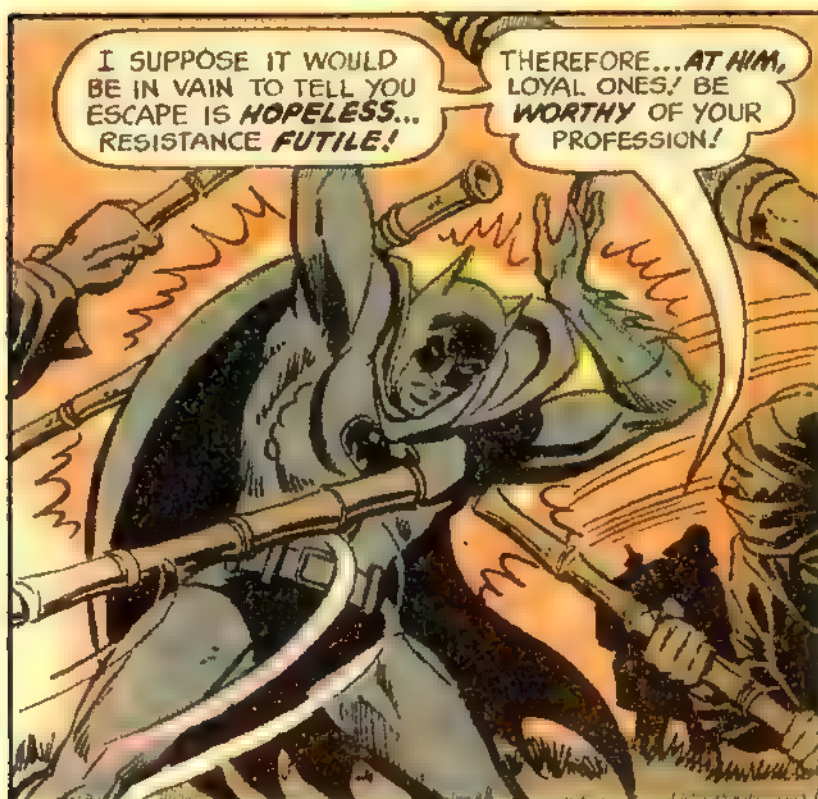
YOUR DISGUISE  
WAS **EXCELLENT!**

SAVE THE  
COMPLIMENTS,  
**DARRK!**



I CAN **AFFORD** TO BE  
GENEROUS WITH **WORDS...**  
FOR I **PREPARED** FOR  
YOUR POSSIBLE ARRIVAL!

AS YOU SEE, YOU  
ARE **SURROUNDED--**  
BY THE FINEST  
TRAINED ASSASSINS  
ON EARTH!



I SUPPOSE IT WOULD  
BE IN VAIN TO TELL YOU  
ESCAPE IS **HOPELESS...**  
RESISTANCE **FUTILE!**

THEREFORE...**AT HIM,**  
LOYAL ONES! BE  
**WORTHY** OF YOUR  
PROFESSION!



WILL  
THEY  
**DESTROY**  
THE  
**BATMAN?**

NO... SUCH IS  
THEIR ABILITY THAT  
THEY NEED KILL  
ONLY WHEN THEY  
**COMMANDED TO--**

--AND I CHOOSE TO PERMIT  
HIM TO REMAIN **ALIVE!**

CONTINUED ON 23RD PAGE FOLLOWING.



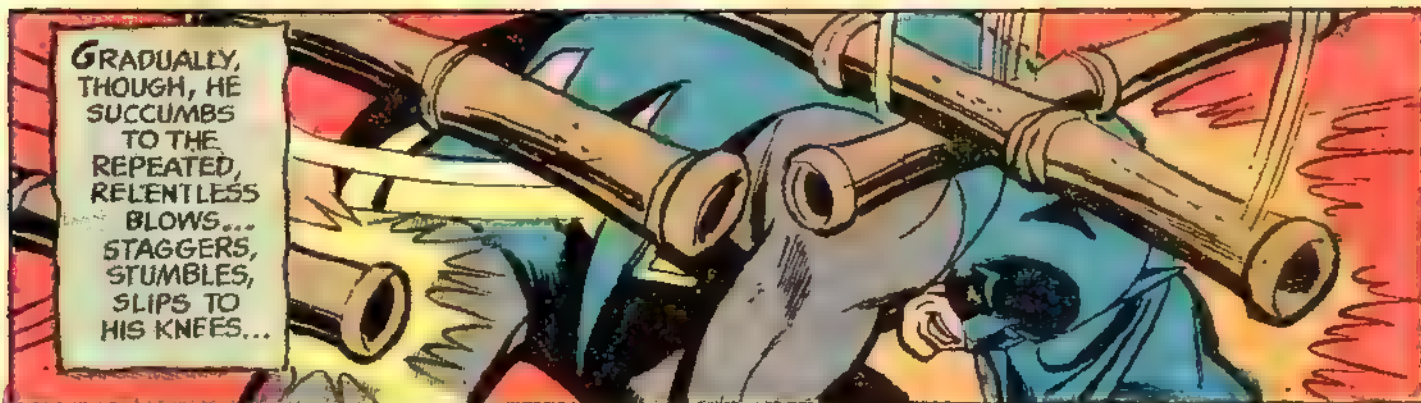
FOR LONG MINUTES,  
THE BATMAN RESISTS  
THE FLAILING BO-STICKS...



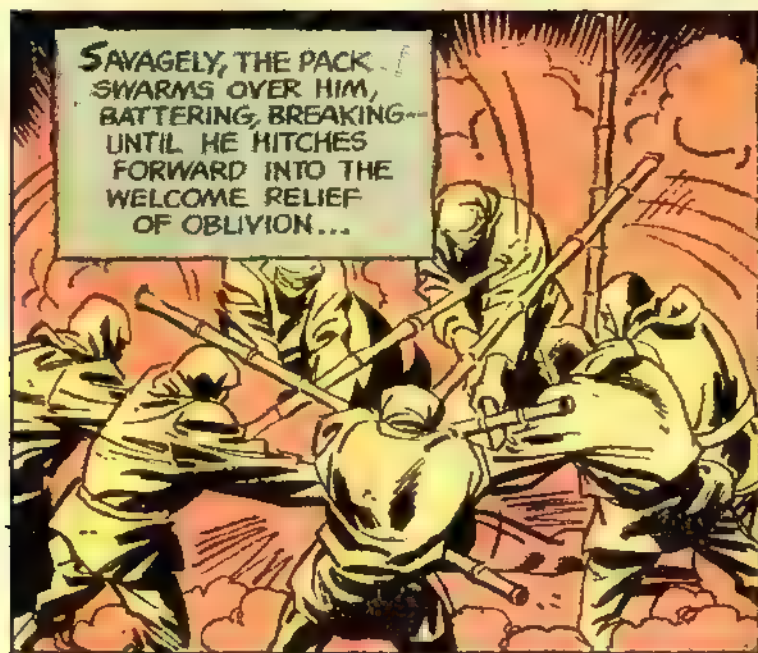
...PITTING BOTH STRENGTH AND  
DETERMINATION AGAINST THE  
WEIGHTED BAMBOO POLES AND  
THEIR FLINT-FACED WIELDERS...



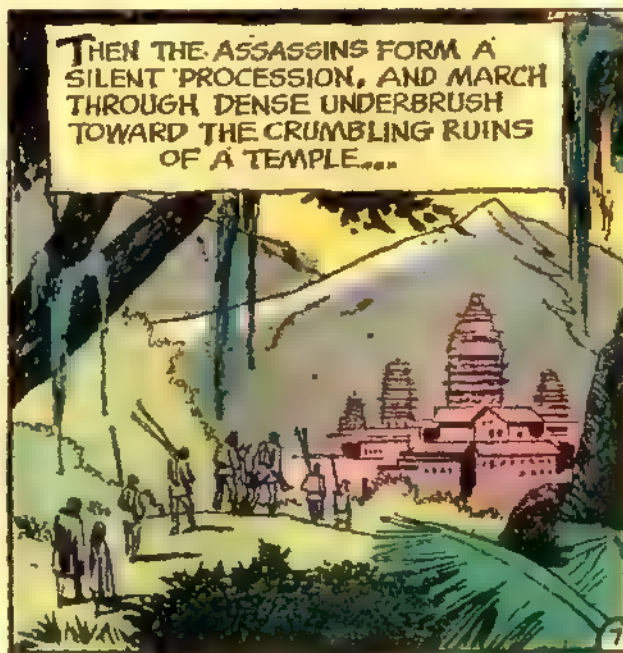
GRADUALLY,  
THOUGH, HE  
SUCCUMBS  
TO THE  
REPEATED,  
RELENTLESS  
BLOWS...  
STAGGERS,  
STUMBLES,  
SLIPS TO  
HIS KNEES...



SAVAGELY, THE PACK  
SWARMS OVER HIM,  
BATTERING, BREAKING--  
UNTIL HE HITCHES  
FORWARD INTO THE  
WELCOME RELIEF  
OF OBLIVION...



THEN THE ASSASSINS FORM A  
SILENT PROCESSION, AND MARCH  
THROUGH DENSE UNDERBRUSH  
TOWARD THE CRUMBLING RUINS  
OF A TEMPLE...



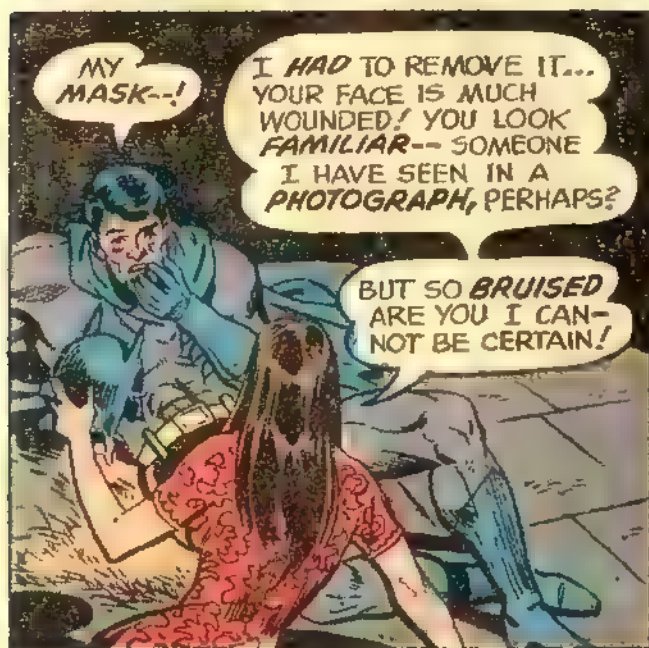




WITH PAIN BURSTING IN HIS SKULL, **THE BATMAN** REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS--AND FEELS THE COOL, SURE TOUCH OF A WOMAN'S FINGERS ON HIS BATTERED BROW--

YOU AWAKEN!  
THANK THE GODS...  
I FEARED YOUR  
INJURIES WERE  
**MORTAL!**

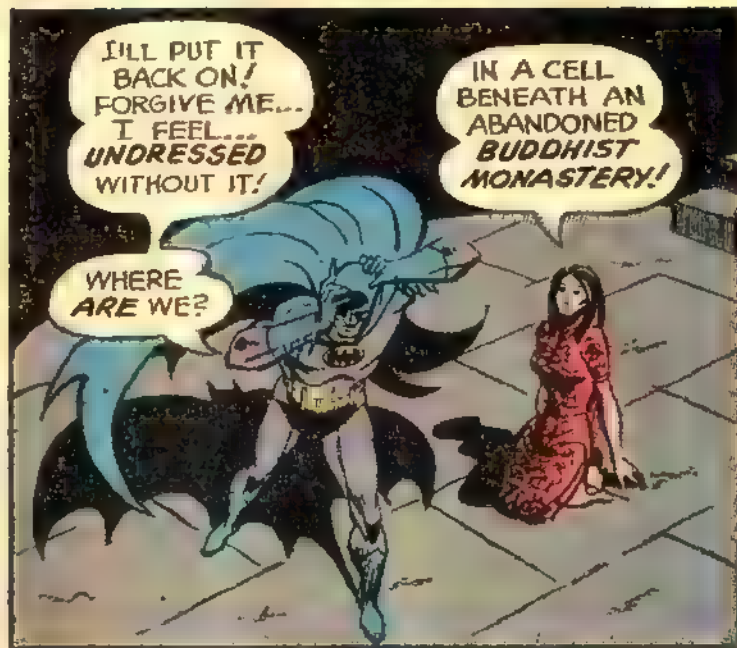
IF THEY'RE NOT,  
THEY'LL DO TILL  
WORSE ONES  
COME ALONG--!



MY  
**MASK--!**

I **HAD** TO REMOVE IT...  
YOUR FACE IS MUCH  
WOUNDED! YOU LOOK  
**FAMILIAR--** SOMEONE  
I HAVE SEEN IN A  
**PHOTOGRAPH**, PERHAPS?

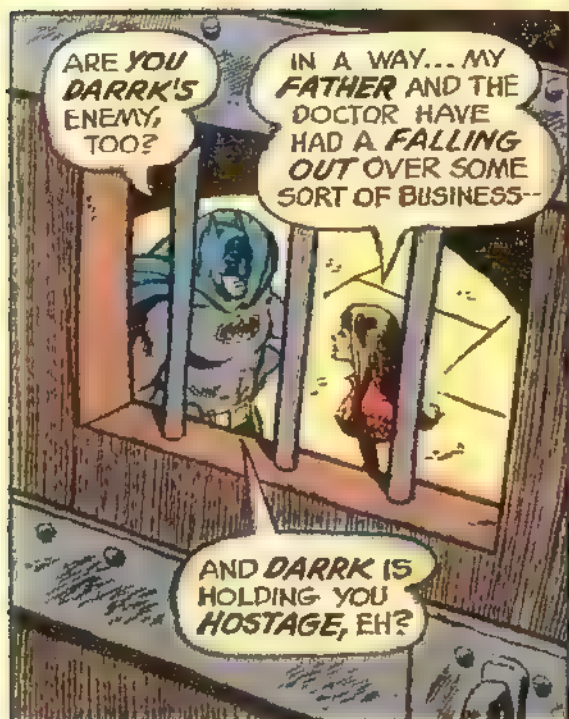
BUT SO **BRUISED**  
ARE YOU I CAN-  
NOT BE CERTAIN!



I'LL PUT IT  
BACK ON!  
FORGIVE ME...  
I FEEL...  
**UNDRESSED**  
WITHOUT IT!

IN A CELL  
BENEATH AN  
ABANDONED  
**BUDDHIST**  
**MONASTERY!**

WHERE  
ARE WE?



ARE YOU  
**DARRK'S**  
ENEMY,  
TOO?

IN A WAY... MY  
**FATHER** AND THE  
DOCTOR HAVE  
HAD A **FALLING**  
**OUT** OVER SOME  
SORT OF BUSINESS--

AND **DARRK** IS  
HOLDING YOU  
**HOSTAGE**, EH?



YES... I AM **TALIA**, DAUGHTER  
OF HE WHO IS CALLED  
**RA'S AL GHUL!\***

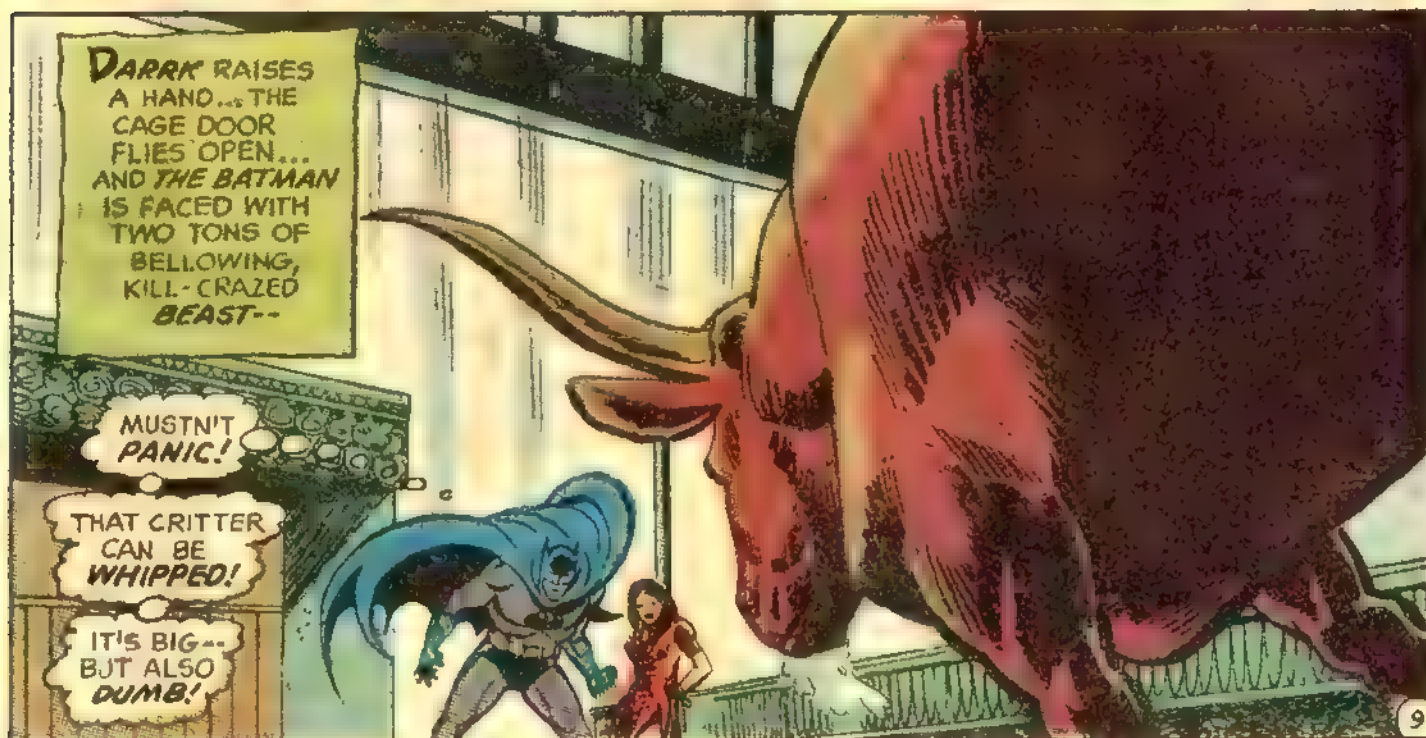
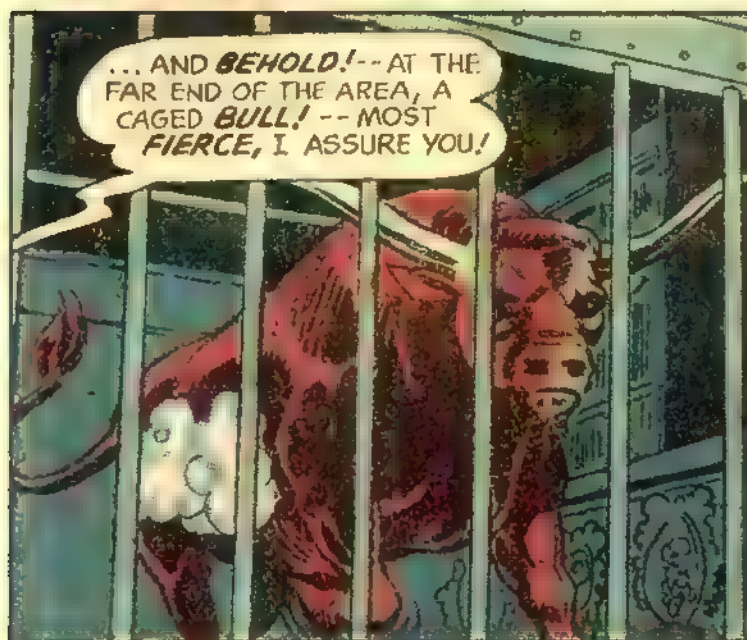
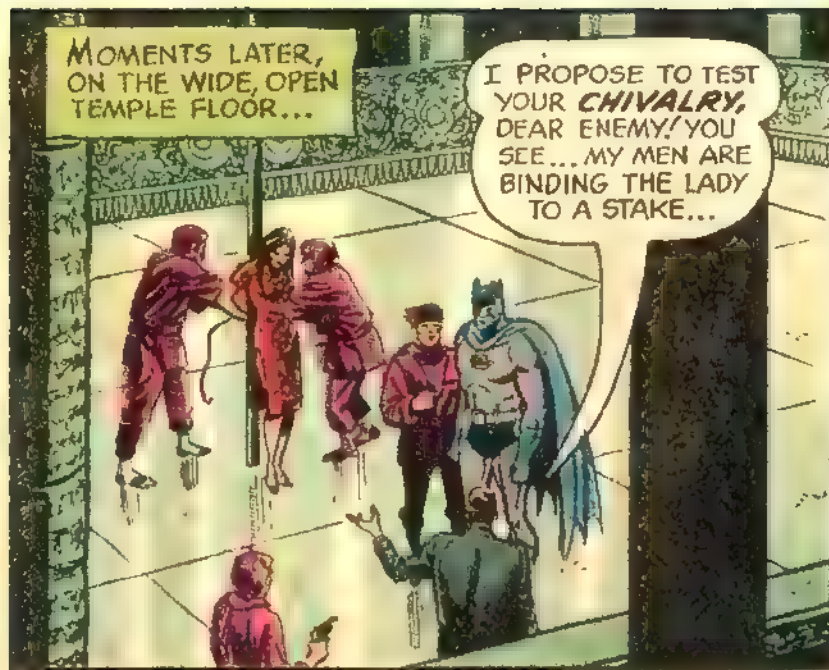
**DARRK'S** HENCHMEN  
CAPTURED ME AT  
THE **UNIVERSITY**  
OF **CAIRO!** I  
STUDY **MEDICINE**  
THERE, AND...

I **HATE** TO  
INTERRUPT  
THIS **CHARMING**  
INTRODUCTION...

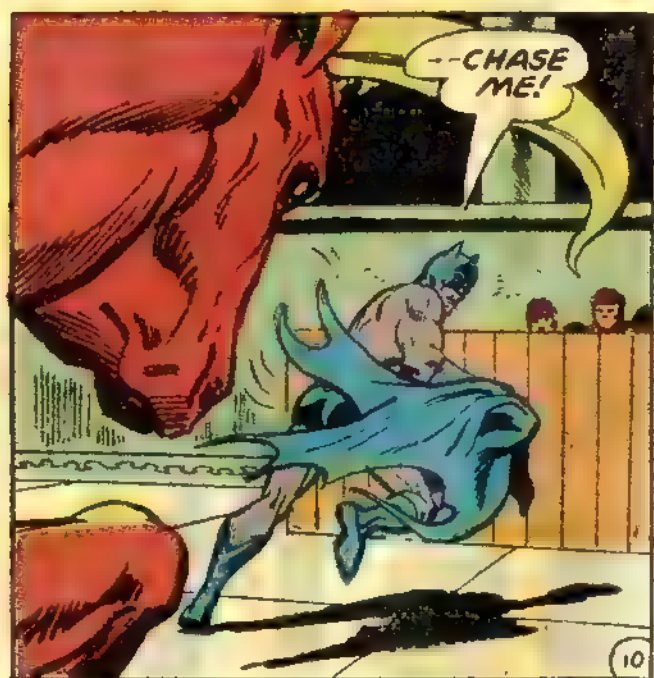
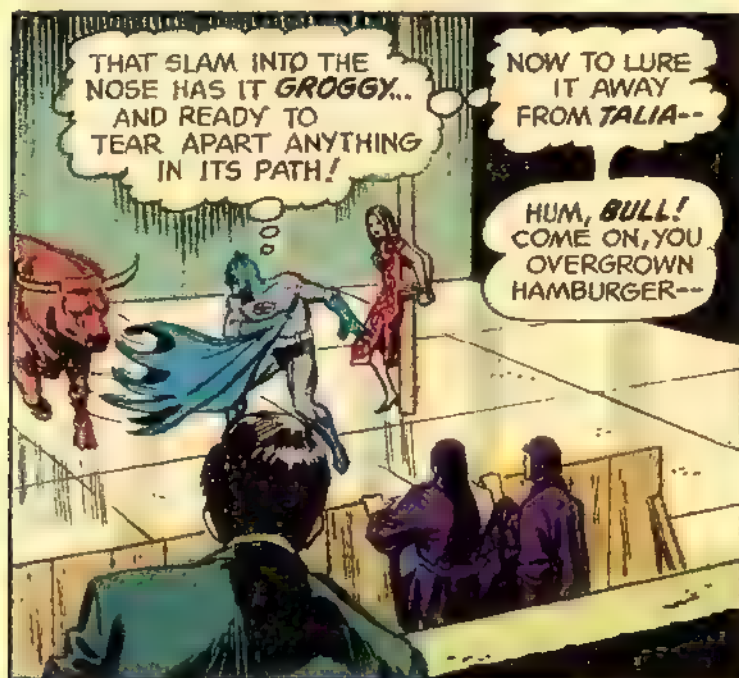
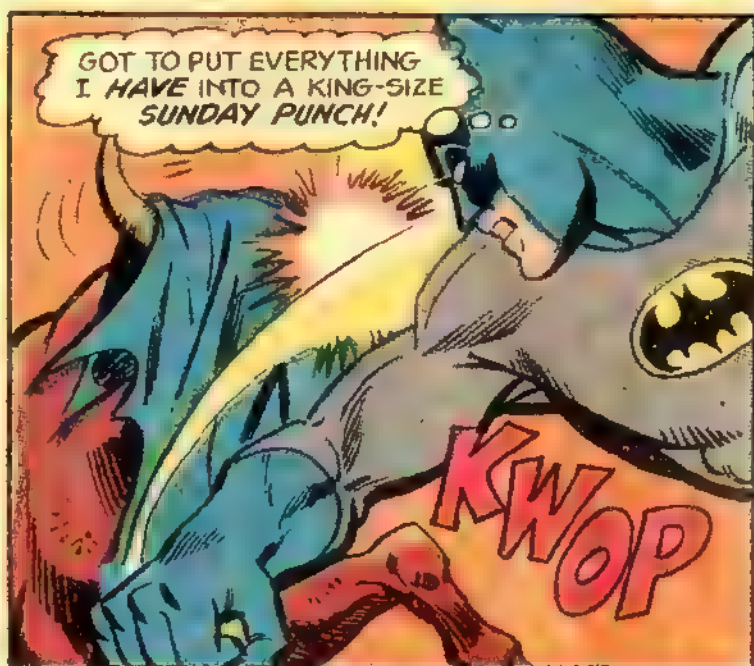
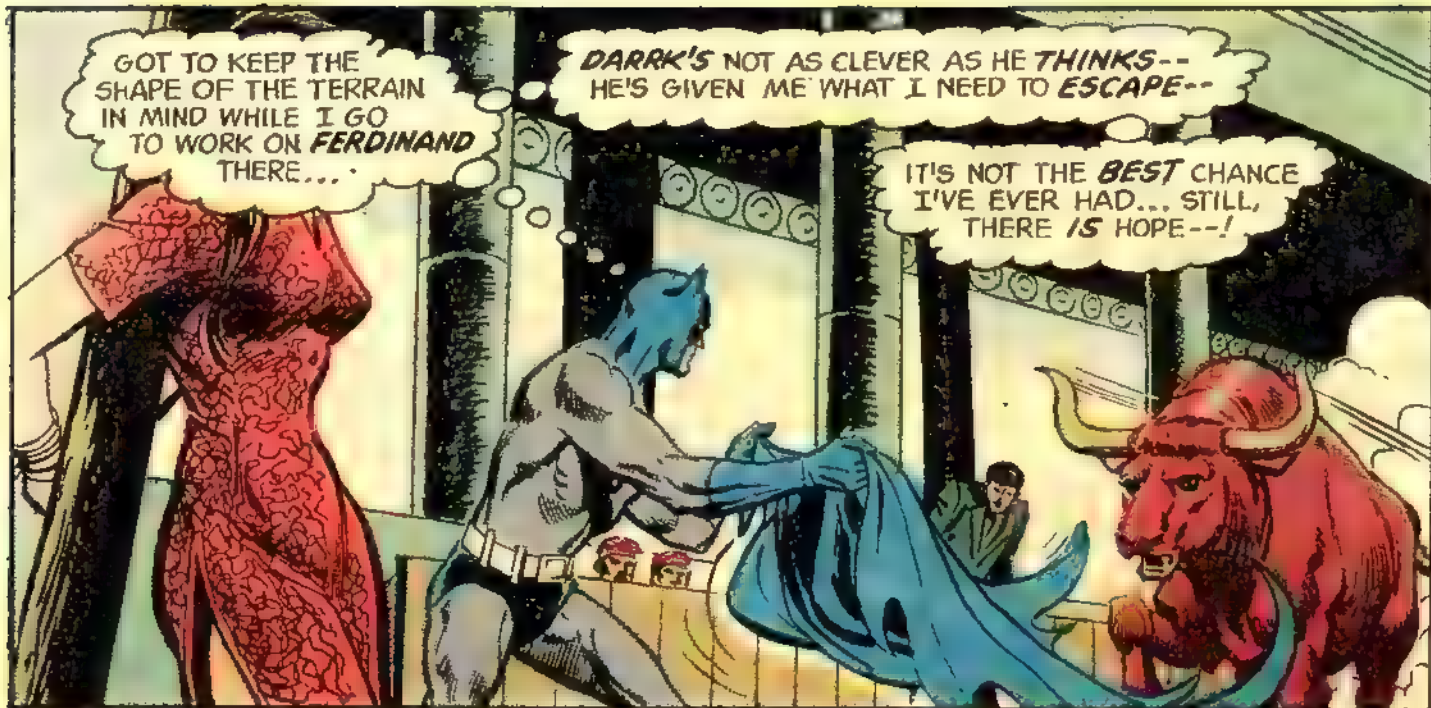
**\*EDITOR'S NOTE:** IN ARABIC, "THE DEMON'S  
HEAD"! LITERALLY, **AL GHUL** SIGNIFIES A  
**MISCHIEF-MAKER**, AND APPEARS AS THE  
**GHOUL** OF THE **ARABIAN NIGHTS!**

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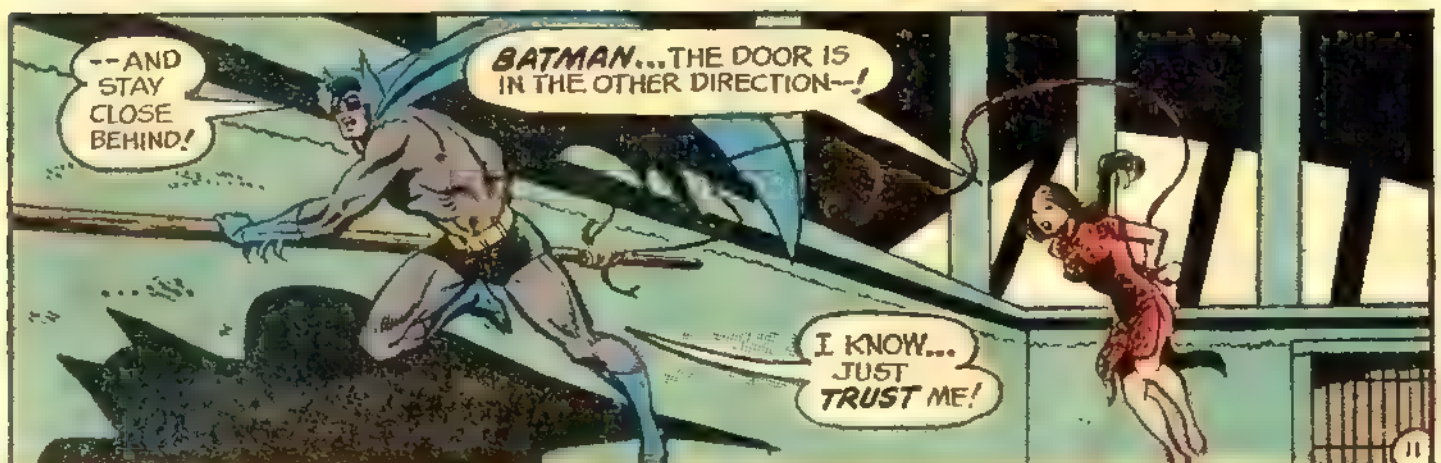
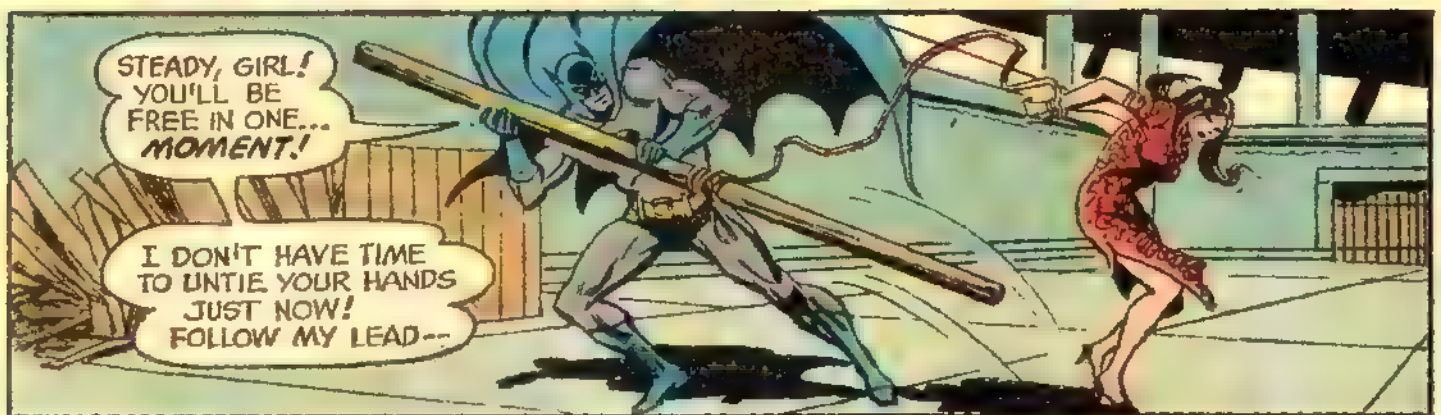
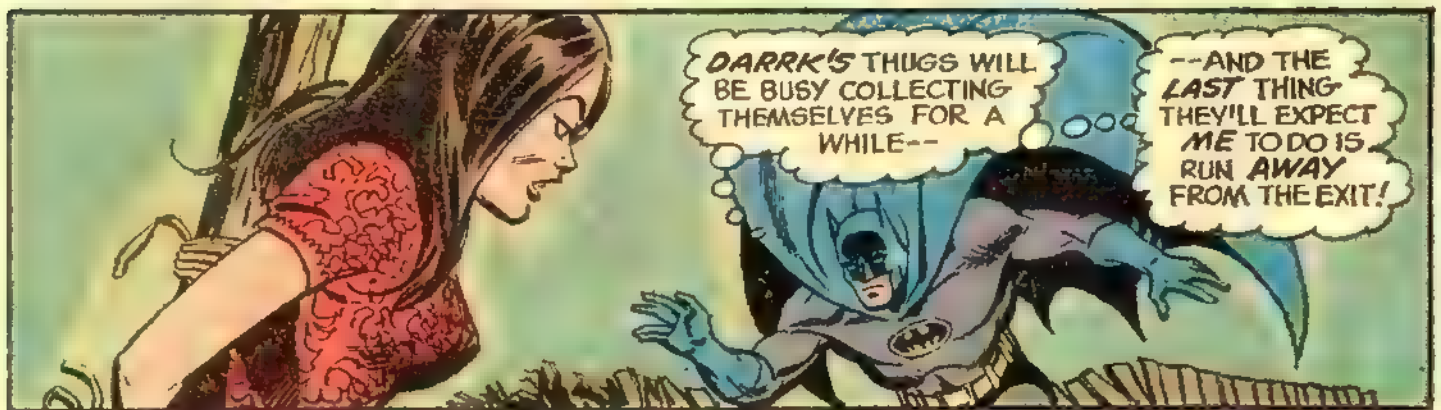
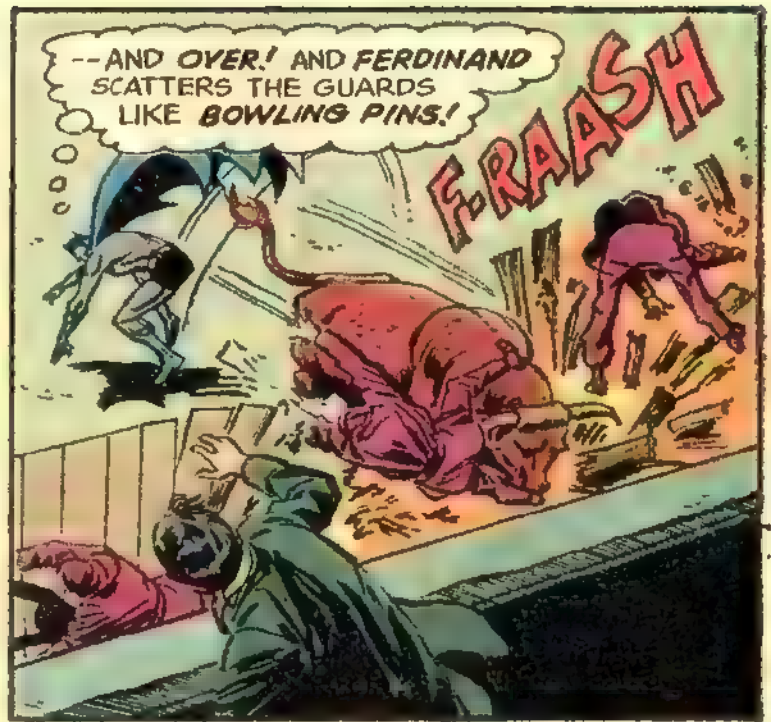
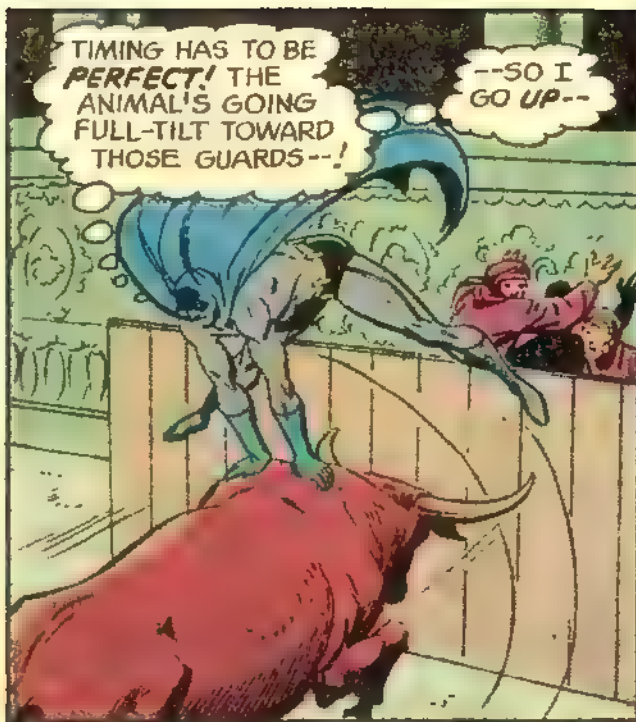




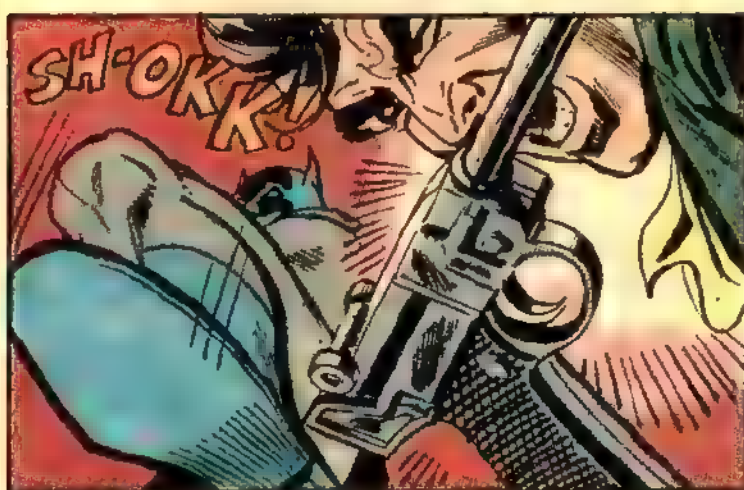
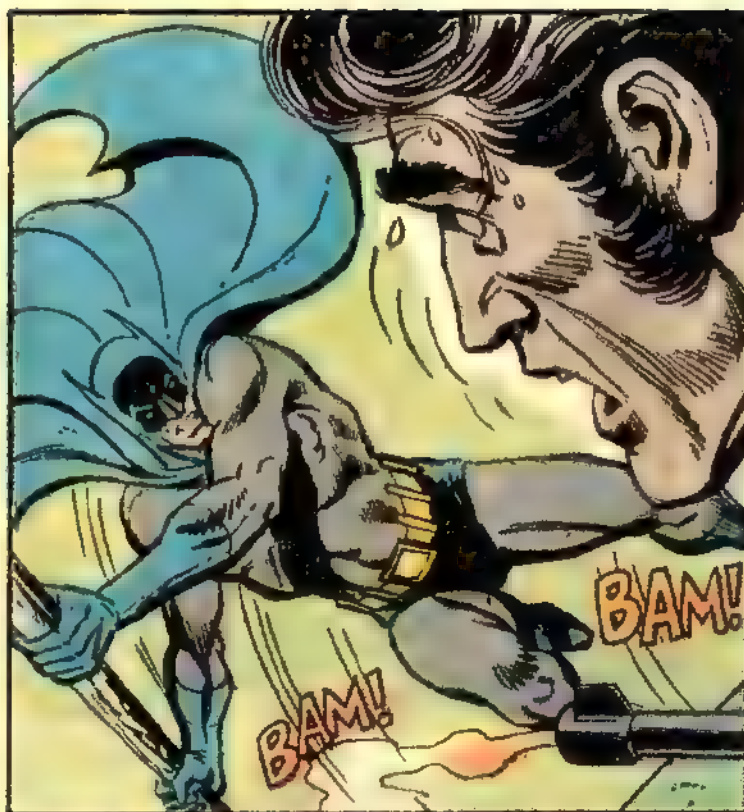




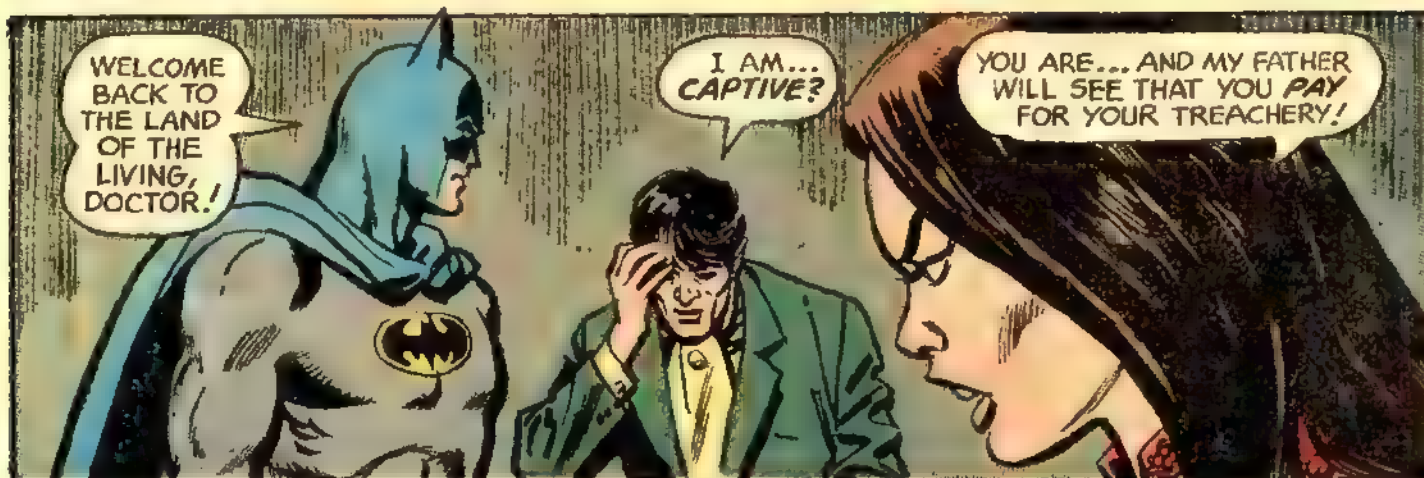
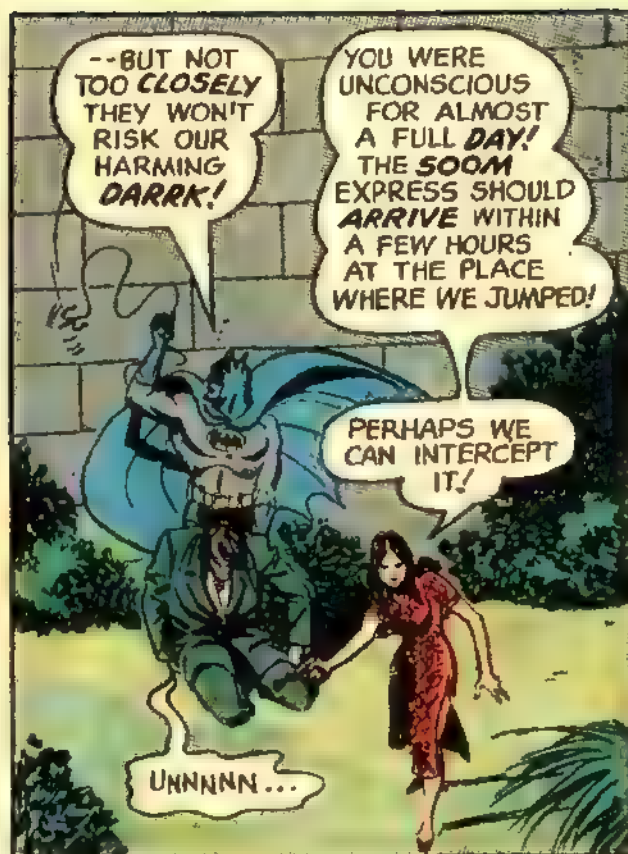




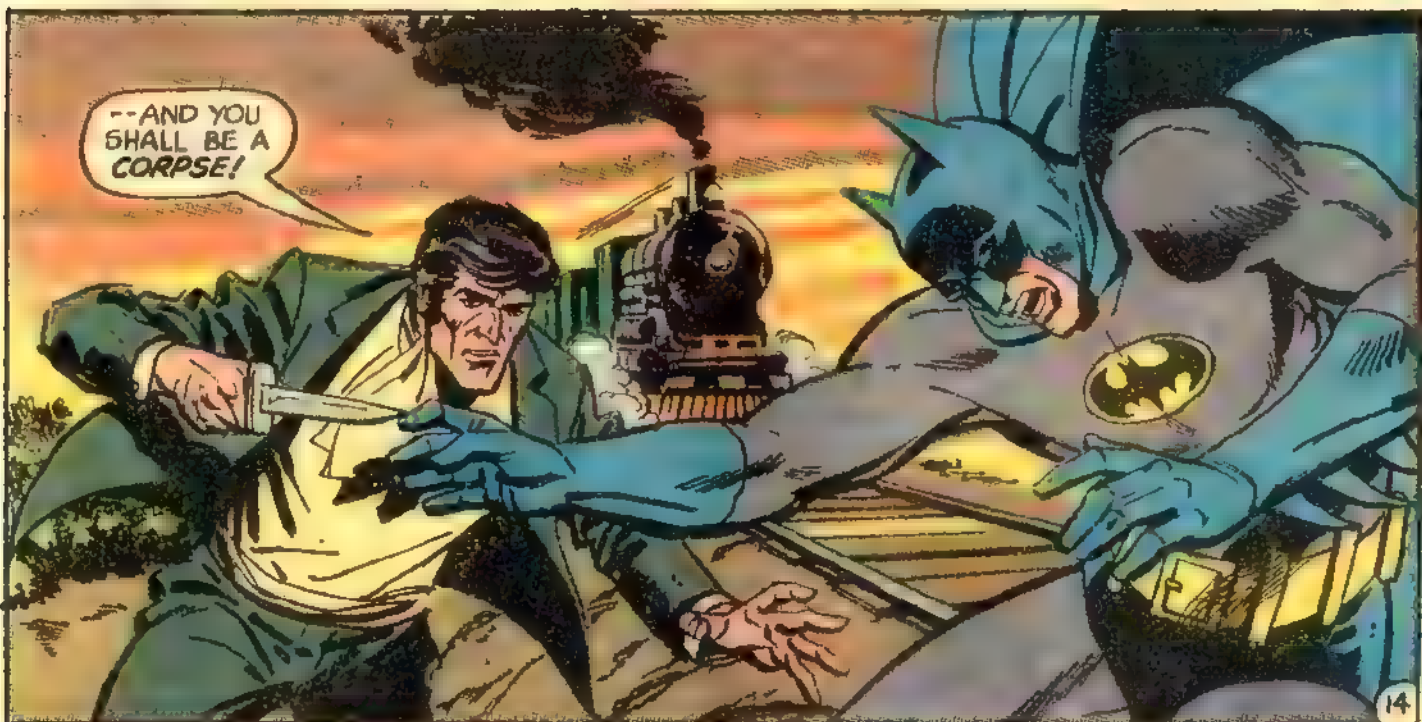
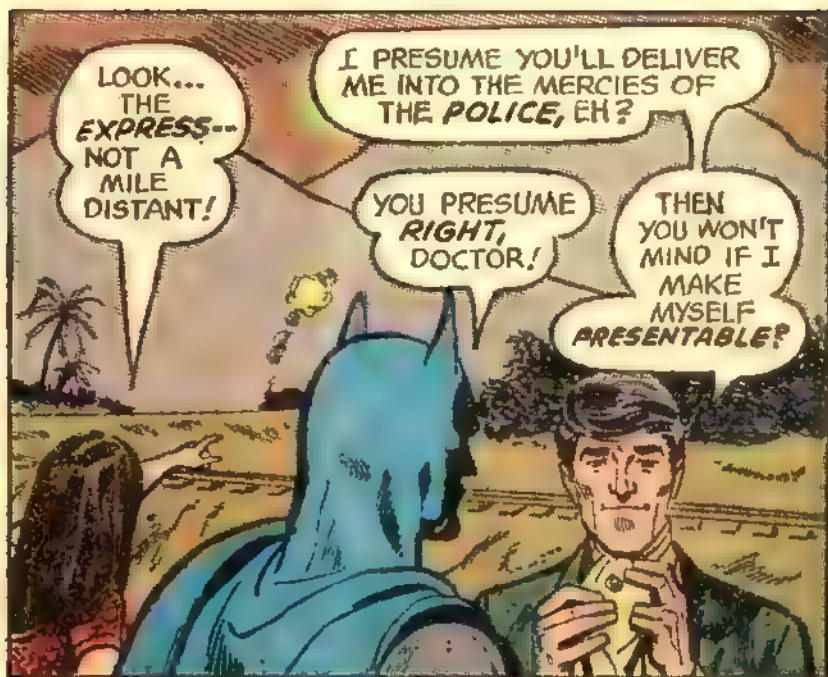
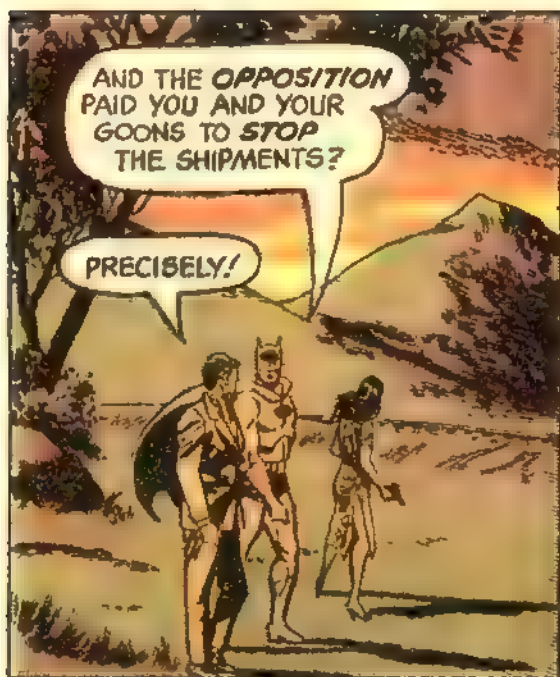




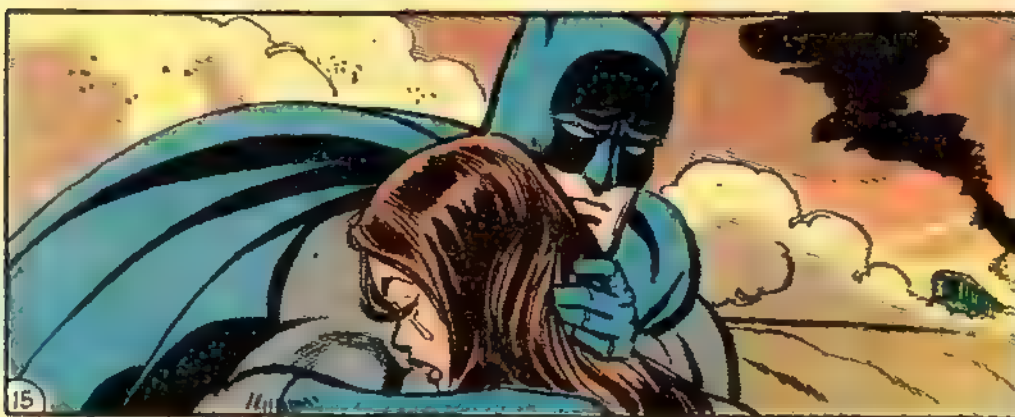
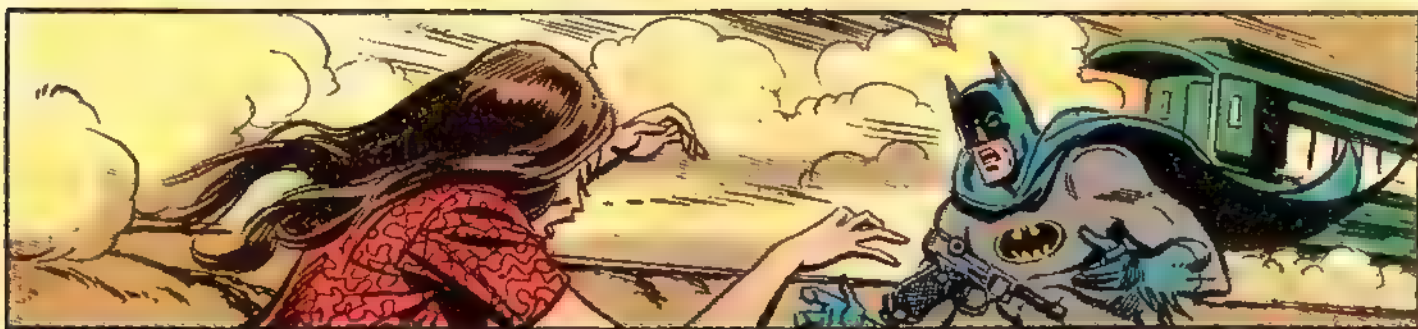
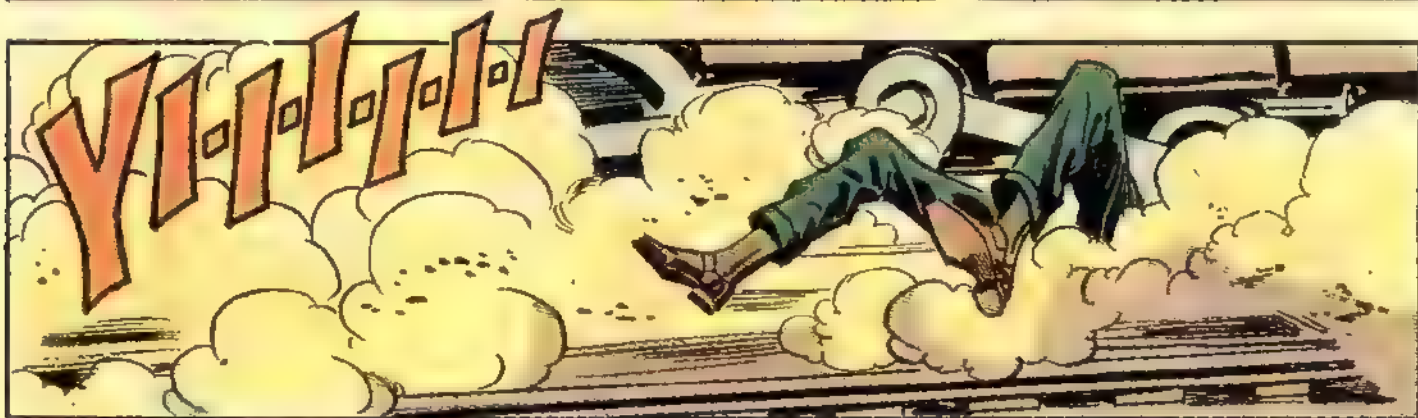
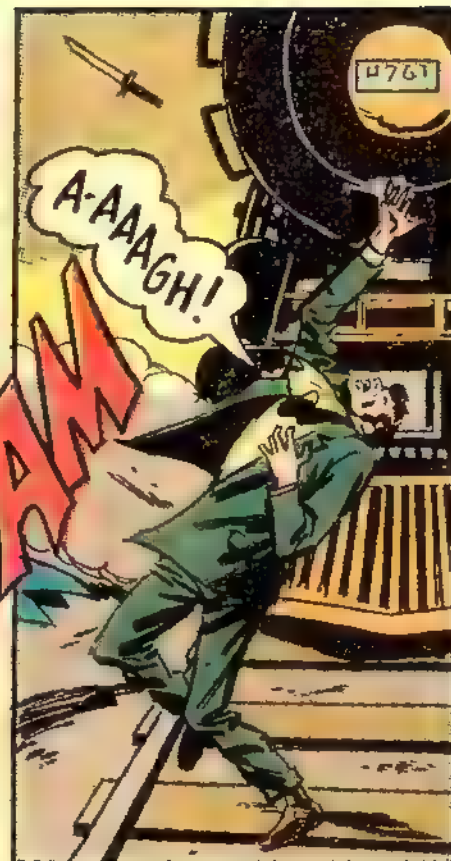












THUS, DR. DARRK'S CAREER ENDS WITH A FINAL, SHRILL SCREAM... AND AS TALIA SINKS TREMBLING INTO THE BATMAN'S EMBRACE, A NEW EPISODE BEGINS! DON'T MISS "DAUGHTER OF THE DEMON" IN THE JUNE BATMAN--  
ON SALE  
ON OR ABOUT  
APRIL 22ND!



DC BATMAN



15c

# BATMAN

WITH **ROBIN** THE TEEN WONDER

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

NO. 232  
JUNE  
30050

WHEN I DECIDE  
ROBIN **MUST**  
DIE--

--HE  
**DIES!**



A TALE TO HAUNT  
YOU FOREVER--

**DAUGHTER**  
of the **DEMON!**



NIGHT. A COLORFULLY CLAD FIGURE SLIDES SILENTLY THROUGH THE SHADOWS TOWARD A BOARDING HOUSE NEAR HUDSON UNIVERSITY. HE SHINNIES SWIFTLY UP A DRAINPIPE... THEN PAUSES AT AN OPEN WINDOW...



S-725

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HOURS LATER, AT THE LAVISH GOTHAM CITY PENTHOUSE OF MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE...

NO GOOD! NO ONE AT THE UNIVERSITY'S SEEN DICK FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS-- HE'S *VANISHED*... AND THAT HAS TO MEAN TROUBLE!

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, MASTER BRUCE--

A MESSENGER JUST LEFT THIS MISSIVE WITH THE DOORMAN!



YOUNG MASTER DICK--!?

YES, ALFRED... AS I FEARED! HE'S A CAPTIVE... OR WORSE!

Dear Batman.  
We have Robin!  
save him if you  
can!

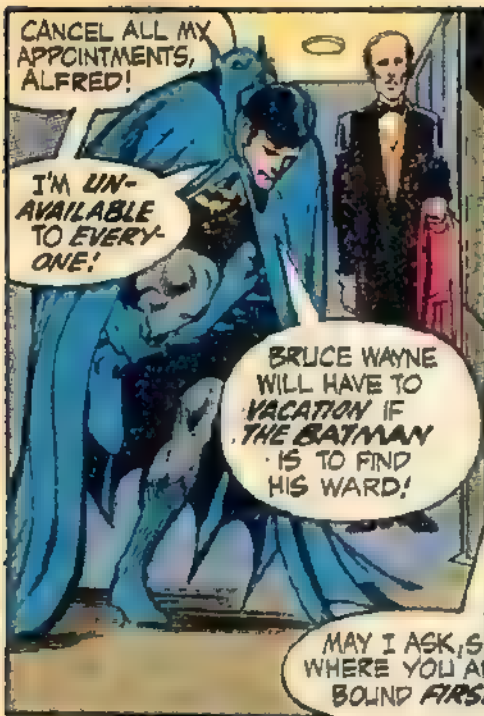
THE DREAD **BATMAN** IS NO STRANGER TO PERIL... FOR HE HAS PUT HIS STRENGTH, COURAGE, AND INTELLIGENCE AGAINST THE DEADLIEST OF FOES, THE MOST GENIUS OF CRIMINALS... YET NO QUEST HAS EVER TAKEN HIM CLOSER TO DEATH THAN HIS SEARCH FOR THE--

STORY BY:  
DENNY O'NEIL

# DAUGHTER OF THE DEMON

ART BY:  
NEAL ADAMS &  
DICK GIORDANO  
EDITED BY:  
JULIUS SCHWARTZ





CANCEL ALL MY APPOINTMENTS, ALFRED!

I'M UN-AVAILABLE TO EVERY-ONE!

BRUCE WAYNE WILL HAVE TO VACATION IF THE BATMAN IS TO FIND HIS WARD!

MAY I ASK, SIR, WHERE YOU ARE BOUND FIRST?



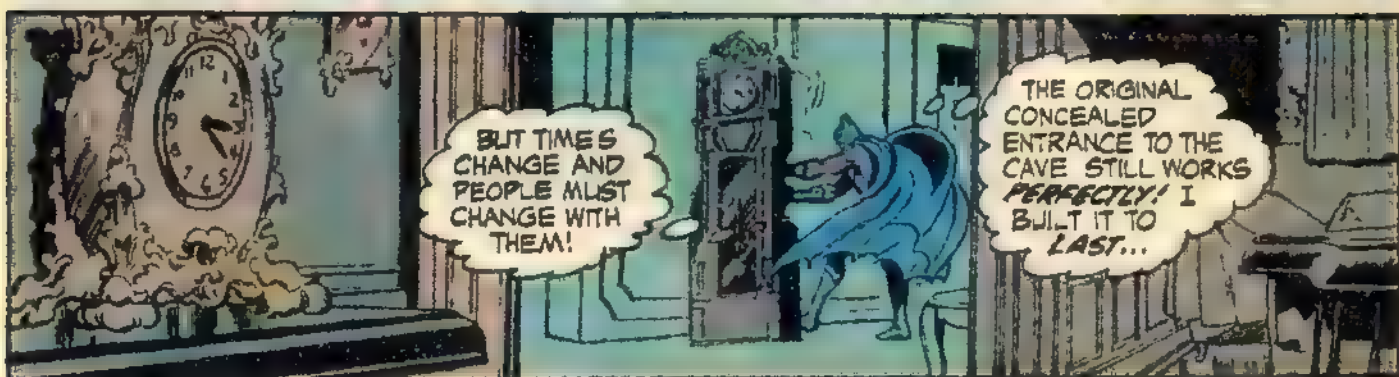
I WANT TO RUN A FULL ANALYSIS ON THE NOTE AND PHOTO! FOR THAT, I'LL NEED THE GEAR IN THE BATCAVE!



A HASTY TRIP TO AN ESTATE IN THE SUBURBS... AND THEN...

SEEING MY ANCESTRAL HOME SO DARK... AS CLOSED AS A VAULT-- GIVES ME A NASTY CHILL!

PERHAPS DICK AND I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT THE OLD PLACE--



BUT TIMES CHANGE AND PEOPLE MUST CHANGE WITH THEM!

THE ORIGINAL CONCEALED ENTRANCE TO THE CAVE STILL WORKS PERFECTLY! I BUILT IT TO LAST...



...AS I BUILT EVERYTHING... BEGINNING WITH THE BEST PARTS AVAILABLE AND ENDING WITH PLENTY OF SWEAT!

WELCOME HOME, BRUCE WAYNE... OR SHALL I ADDRESS YOU AS THE BATMAN?



AT THE SOUND OF AN ICY  
PENETRATING VOICE,  
THE CAPED MAN  
WHIRLS, AND---

WHO ARE  
YOU? HOW'D  
YOU GET  
IN HERE...?

TO ANSWER  
YOUR QUESTION,  
I AM PRESENTLY  
KNOWN AS RÅ'S AL  
GHÛL! YOU SHALL  
BE SEEING  
MUCH OF ME!

TO ANSWER YOUR *SECOND*  
QUERY...IT WAS A SIMPLE  
MATTER OF *DEDUCTION* AND  
*RESEARCH*! I REASONED  
THAT *THE BATMAN* HAD TO  
BE *WEALTHY*...

...AND THAT HE NEEDED  
CERTAIN KINDS OF  
EQUIPMENT! THEREFORE,  
I MERELY HAD MY  
ORGANIZATION  
INVESTIGATE...

...AND YOU FOUND THAT  
*BRUCE WAYNE* ALONE  
BOUGHT WHAT *THE*  
*BATMAN* HAD TO  
HAVE, RIGHT? OKAY...  
THAT'S A HOLE I'LL  
PLUS!

I'M SURPRISED  
SOMEONE DIDN'T THINK  
OF IT *YEARS* AGO!  
NOW, I HAVE A *THIRD*  
QUESTION... THE  
*BIG ONE*...

WHAT  
DO YOU  
WANT?

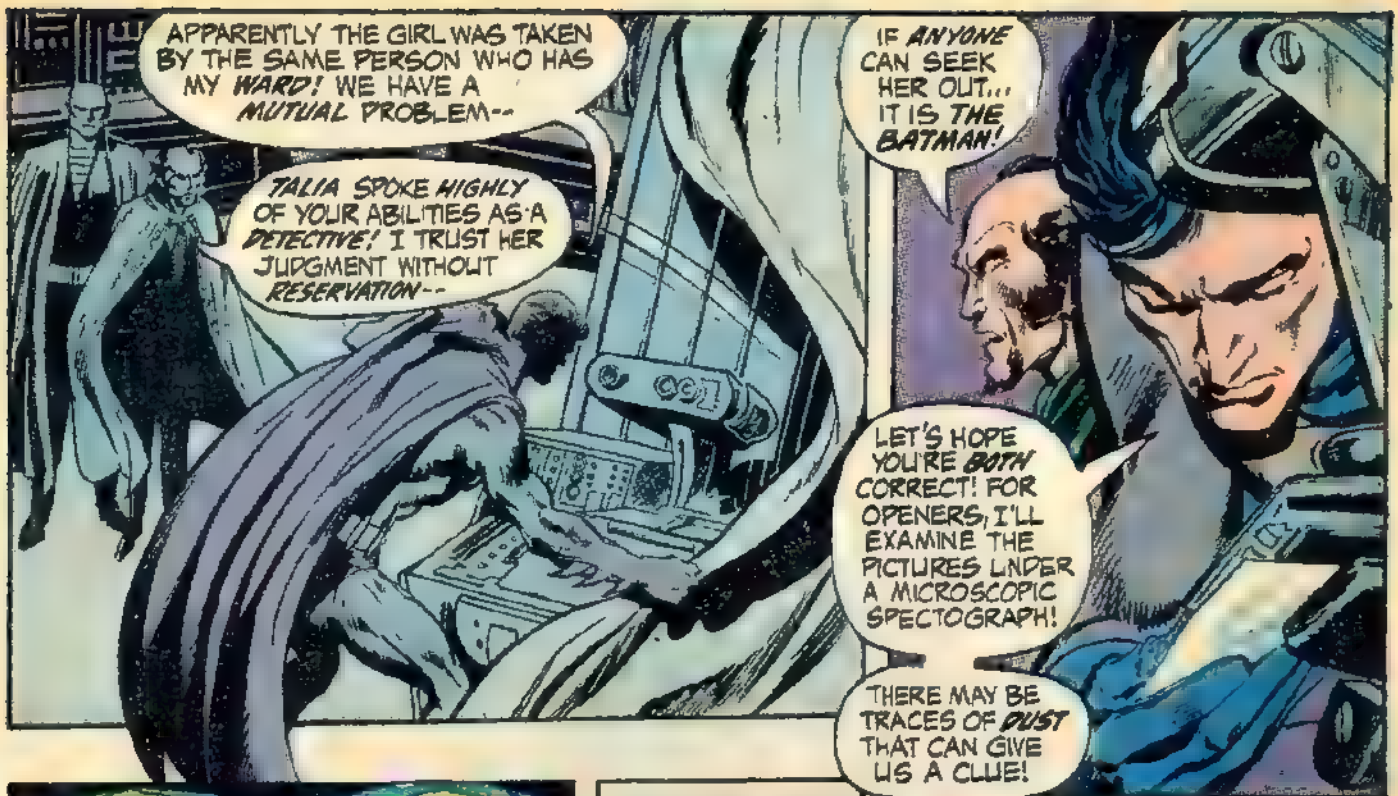
I WANT... *NEED*... YOUR *HELP*! MY  
CHILD HAS BEEN *ABDUCTED*! I  
RECEIVED THIS PHOTOGRAPH  
BY *MESSENGER*!

THAT'S  
*TALIA*!--SHE'S  
YOUR  
DAUGHTER?\*

Dear Rå's Al Ghûl  
we have your  
daughter, save her  
if you can.

\*THE BATMAN SAVED TALIA'S LIFE IN  
"INTO THE PEN OF THE DEATH-DEALERS"  
(DETECTIVE COMICS #411; MAY 1971) AND  
SHE RETURNED THE COMPLIMENT BY SLAYING  
THE MURDEROUS DR. DARRK!... EDITOR





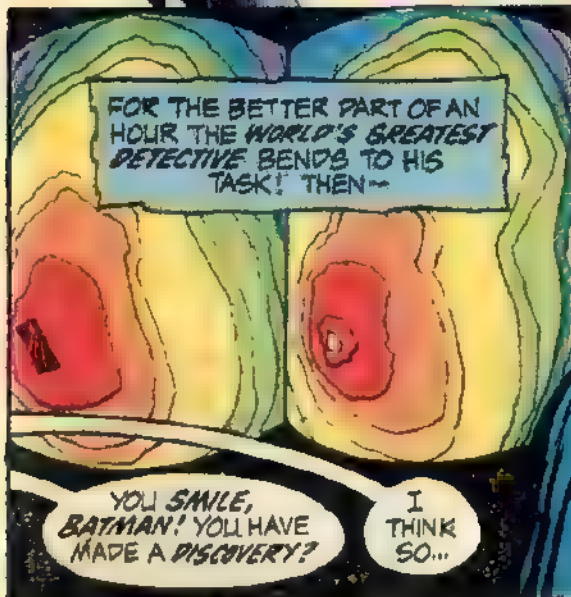
APPARENTLY THE GIRL WAS TAKEN BY THE SAME PERSON WHO HAS MY *WARD*! WE HAVE A *MUTUAL PROBLEM*--

TALIA SPOKE HIGHLY OF YOUR ABILITIES AS A *DETECTIVE*! I TRUST HER JUDGMENT WITHOUT *RESERVATION*--

IF *ANYONE* CAN SEEK HER OUT... IT IS THE *BATMAN*!

LET'S HOPE YOU'RE *BOTH* CORRECT! FOR OPENERS, I'LL EXAMINE THE PICTURES UNDER A MICROSCOPIC SPECTOGRAPH!

THERE MAY BE TRACES OF *DUST* THAT CAN GIVE US A CLUE!



FOR THE BETTER PART OF AN HOUR THE *WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE* BENDS TO HIS TASK! THEN--

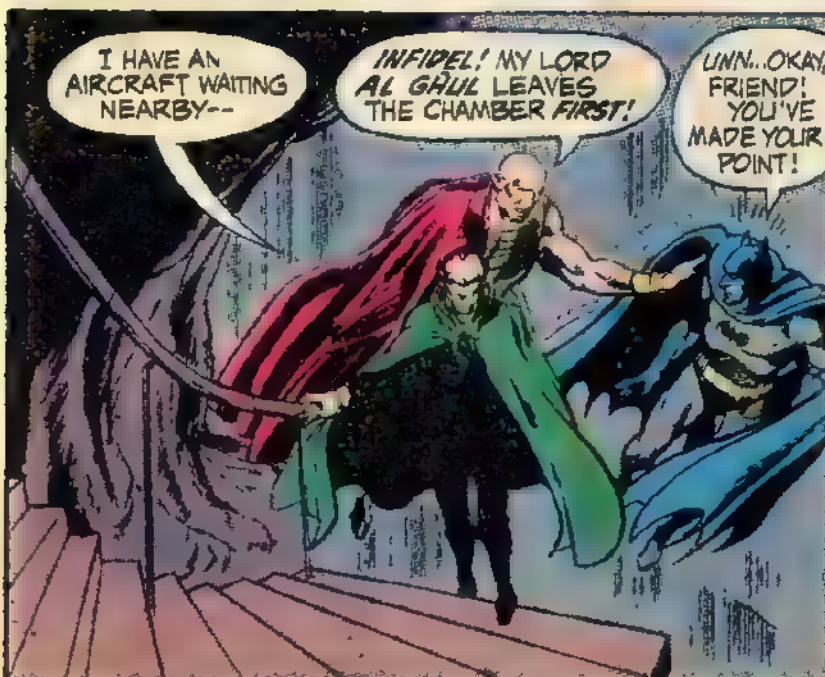
YOU *SMILE*, *BATMAN*! YOU HAVE MADE A *DISCOVERY*?

I THINK SO...

YES...UNMISTAKABLE BITS OF A CERTAIN *HERB*...ONE USED IN CEREMONIES OF A FAR EASTERN CULT OF *KILLERS*!

THEY'RE CALLED THE *BROTHERHOOD OF THE DEMON*! AND I RECALL THAT THEY'RE CURRENTLY LOCATED IN *CALCUTTA*!

WE SHALL PROCEED TO *INDIA* IMMEDIATELY!



I HAVE AN AIRCRAFT WAITING NEARBY--

*INFIDEL*! MY LORD *AL GHUL* LEAVES THE CHAMBER FIRST!

UNN...OKAY, FRIEND! YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT!



PRAY FORGIVE MY GUARD *UBU*! HE IS TRAINED TO MY *COMPLETE SERVICE*... AND A TRIFLE *OVERZEALOUS*!

HE'S THAT, ALL RIGHT...AND STRONG, TOO!



SOON, THE ODDLY  
MIXED TRIO IS  
WINGING OVER  
AN OCEAN...

AND INSIDE THE LUXURIOUS JET...

YOUR *WARD* AND MY DAUGHTER  
ARE IN MORTAL DANGER!  
INDEED, *BATMAN*, THEY MAY  
ALREADY BE DEAD! YET  
YOU SHOW NO SIGNS  
OF AGITATION--

NOR DO YOU EXHIBIT  
ANY *CURIOSITY*  
CONCERNING MY  
HUMBLE *SELF*! HAVE YOU NO  
*FEELINGS*?

PLENTY OF THEM! BUT  
IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD FOR  
ME TO ALLOW MY *EMOTIONS*  
TO GAIN CONTROL...

...NOT WHILE THERE'S A *JOB* AHEAD!  
FOR YEARS, I'VE TRAINED MYSELF TO  
CONCENTRATE ON THE THING AT HAND--

LATER, I'LL  
CRY... IF I  
MUST!

CRY--?  
YES,  
THERE  
HAVE BEEN  
TEARS IN  
MY LIFE--

BEGINNING WITH THAT SUMMER EVENING SO  
LONG AGO! MY PARENTS AND THE CHILD THAT  
WAS MYSELF WERE STROLLING HOME FROM A  
MOVIE, HAPPY, CONTENT--WHEN SUDDENLY--

I'LL  
TAKE THAT  
NECKLACE  
YOU'RE WEARING,  
LADY!

LEAVE HER  
ALONE...  
**AAGH!**

**HELP!  
POLICE...  
HELP!**

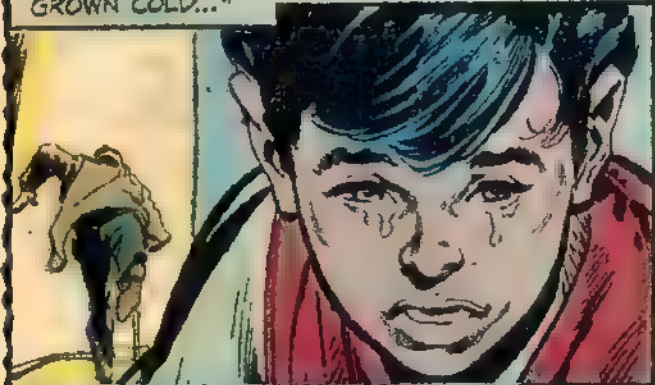
**SHUT UP, LADY!  
I SAID... SHUT UP!**

PLEASE,  
DON'T--!

CONTINUED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING.



"IN A SINGLE, SEARING MOMENT, MY CHILDHOOD WAS GONE, BLASTED BY A CHEAP THUG'S BULLETS, AND I WAS LEFT ALONE IN A WORLD GROWN COLD..."



"I KNEW I WOULD NEVER AGAIN KNOW PEACE. STANDING OVER THE BODIES OF MY MOTHER AND FATHER, I MADE A SILENT VOW..."

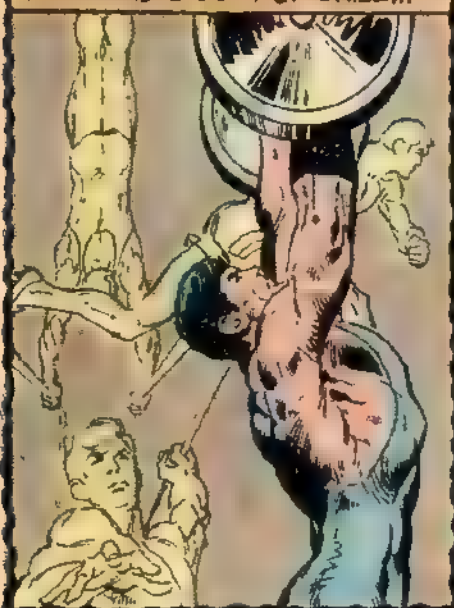
"I WOULD AVENGE THEIR MURDERS--I WOULD DEDICATE MY LIFE TO A RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME..."



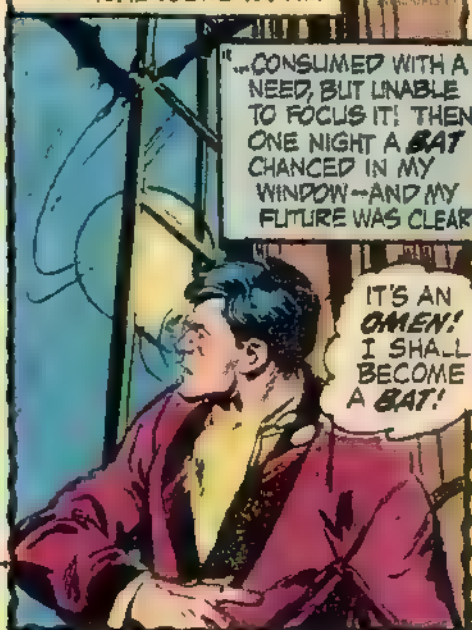
"AND SO I DID! HAD I REALIZED THE DIFFICULTY OF THE TASK I'D SET MYSELF, I MIGHT HAVE WAVERED. THERE WERE BRUTALLY LONG HOURS IN THE LABORATORY..."



"AND EQUALLY LONG, EQUALLY BRUTAL HOURS IN THE GYM... TRAINING, DEVELOPING EVERY CONCEIVABLE SORT OF SKILL..."



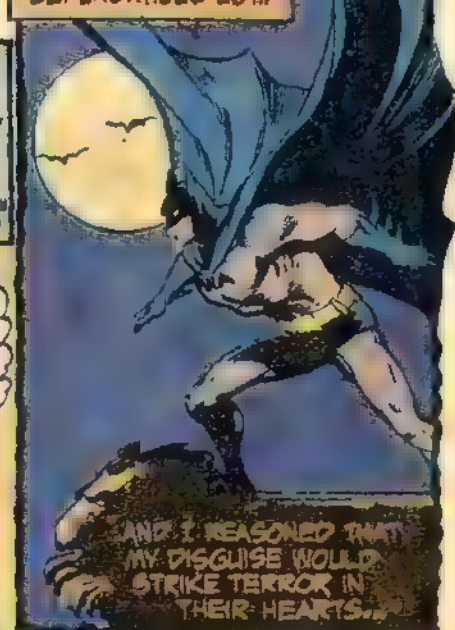
"I WAS NOT YET OLD ENOUGH TO VOTE...A TOTALLY DEVOTED, ALMOST FANATICAL YOUNG MAN..."



"...CONSUMED WITH A NEED, BUT UNABLE TO FOCUS IT! THEN, ONE NIGHT A BAT CHANCED IN MY WINDOW--AND MY FUTURE WAS CLEAR."

IT'S AN OMEN! I SHALL BECOME A BAT!

"I FELT CRIMINALS TO BE A COWARDLY, SUPERSTITIOUS LOT..."



AND I REASONED THAT MY DISGUISE WOULD STRIKE TERROR IN THEIR HEARTS...

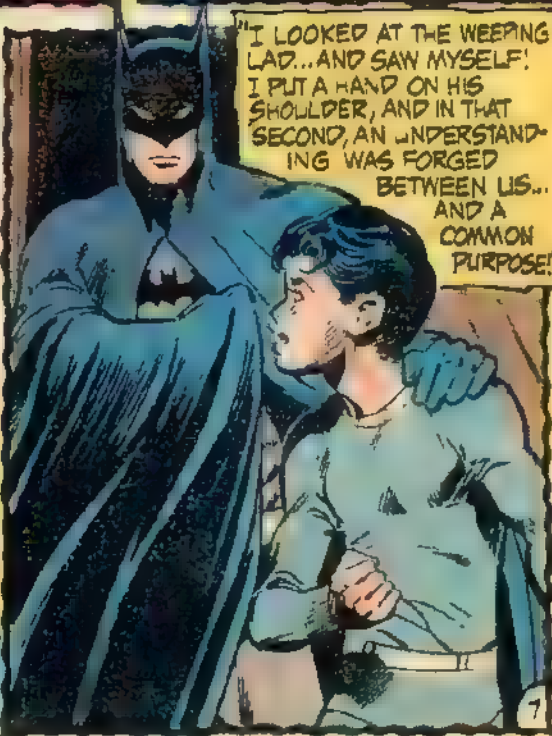
"SOON, I BECAME FEARED AND HATED... EXACTLY AS I'D HOPED! THEN, AT A PERFORMANCE OF THE CIRCUS, I SAW MY OWN TRAGEDY HORRIBLY REENACTED AS A PAIR OF AERIALISTS PLUNGED TO THEIR DEATHS..."



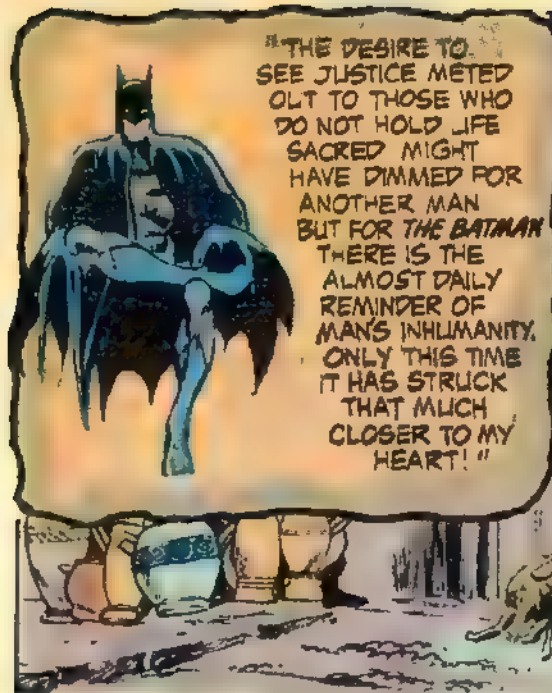
"...LEAVING A SMALL, FRIGHTENED BOY TO MOURN. I GRIEVED WITH THE REALIZATION THAT MINE WAS NOT AN ISOLATED AGONY... NOR EVEN UNIQUE!"



"I LOOKED AT THE WEeping LAD...AND SAW MYSELF! I PUT A HAND ON HIS SHOULDER, AND IN THAT SECOND, AN UNDERSTANDING WAS FORGED BETWEEN US... AND A COMMON PURPOSE!"







"THE DESIRE TO SEE JUSTICE METED OUT TO THOSE WHO DO NOT HOLD LIFE SACRED MIGHT HAVE DIMMED FOR ANOTHER MAN BUT FOR THE BATMAN THERE IS THE ALMOST DAILY REMINDER OF MAN'S INHUMANITY. ONLY THIS TIME IT HAS STRUCK THAT MUCH CLOSER TO MY HEART!"

SOON... CALCUTTA! CITY OF A THOUSAND MISERIES, A MILLION TEARS! BEHIND EVERY DOOR LURKS A HORROR... BEHIND EVERY SMILE, A KNIFE...



ALMS! ALMS FOR THE LOVE OF ALLAH--!



ALMS, GOOD BROTHERS?

NAY, OLD PRIEST... WE COME TO TAKE, NOT GIVE!

EMPTY YOUR BEGGING CUP... OR SUFFER OUR ANGER!

SUCH THREATS BODE YOU ILL!



SURRENDER--! FOR MY ANGER DWARFS YOURS!



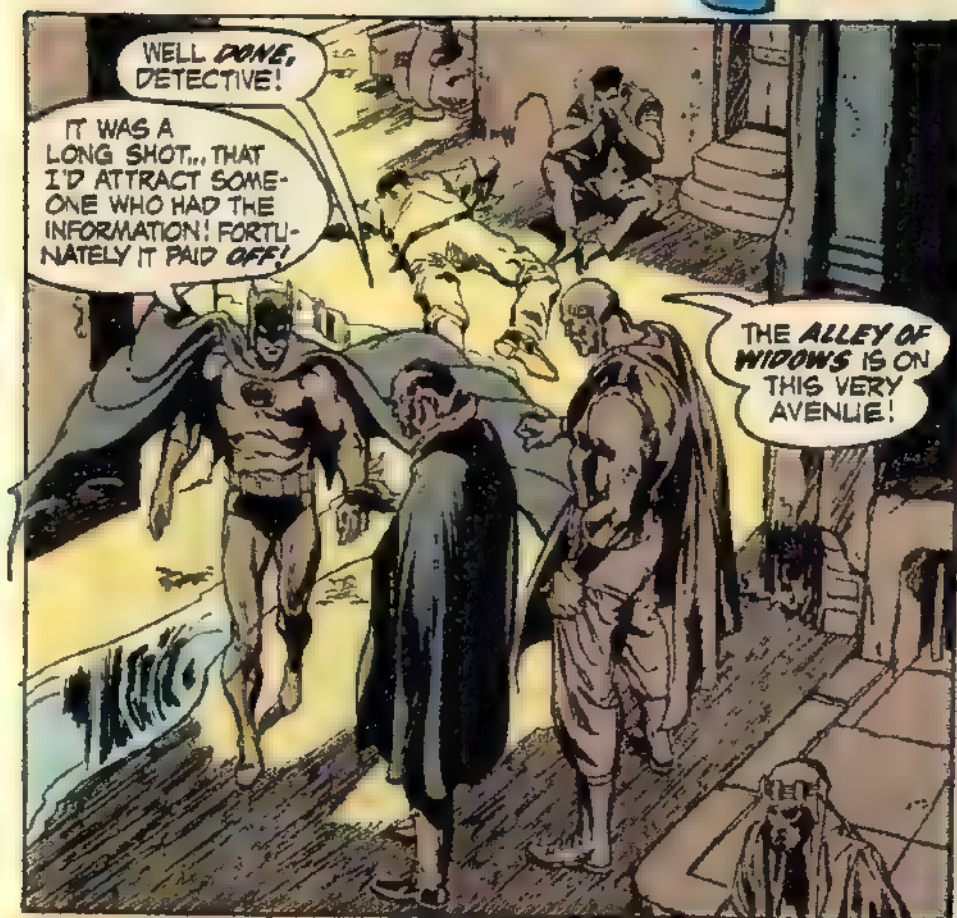
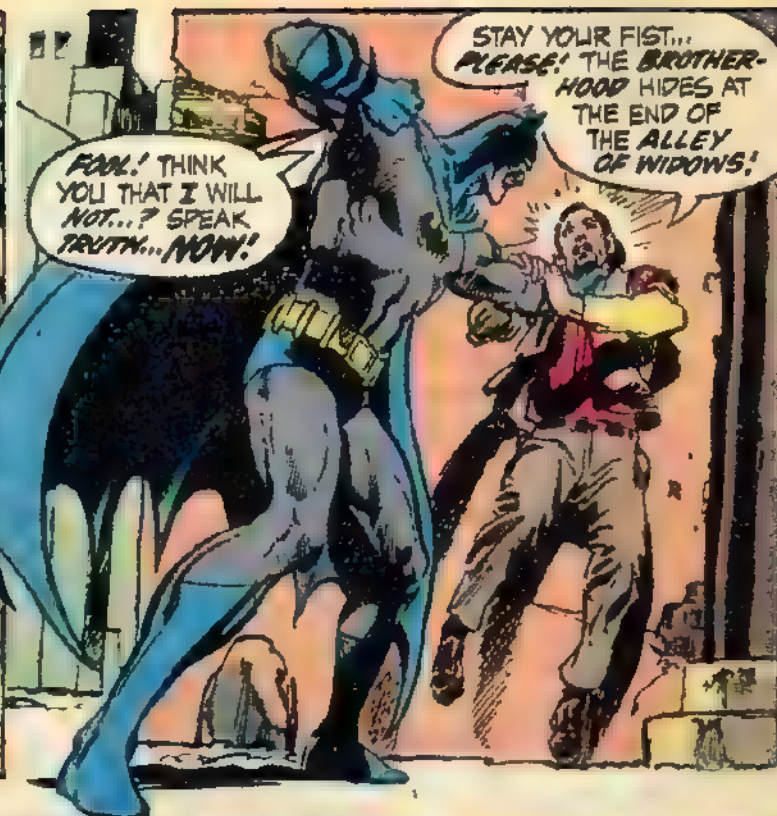
AIEEE! BENEATH THE HOLY ROBES, A DEVIL FROM HELL!--A BAT-MAN!

STUPID WAVER OF STICKS! YOUR WEAPON MEANS NOTHING TO ME!

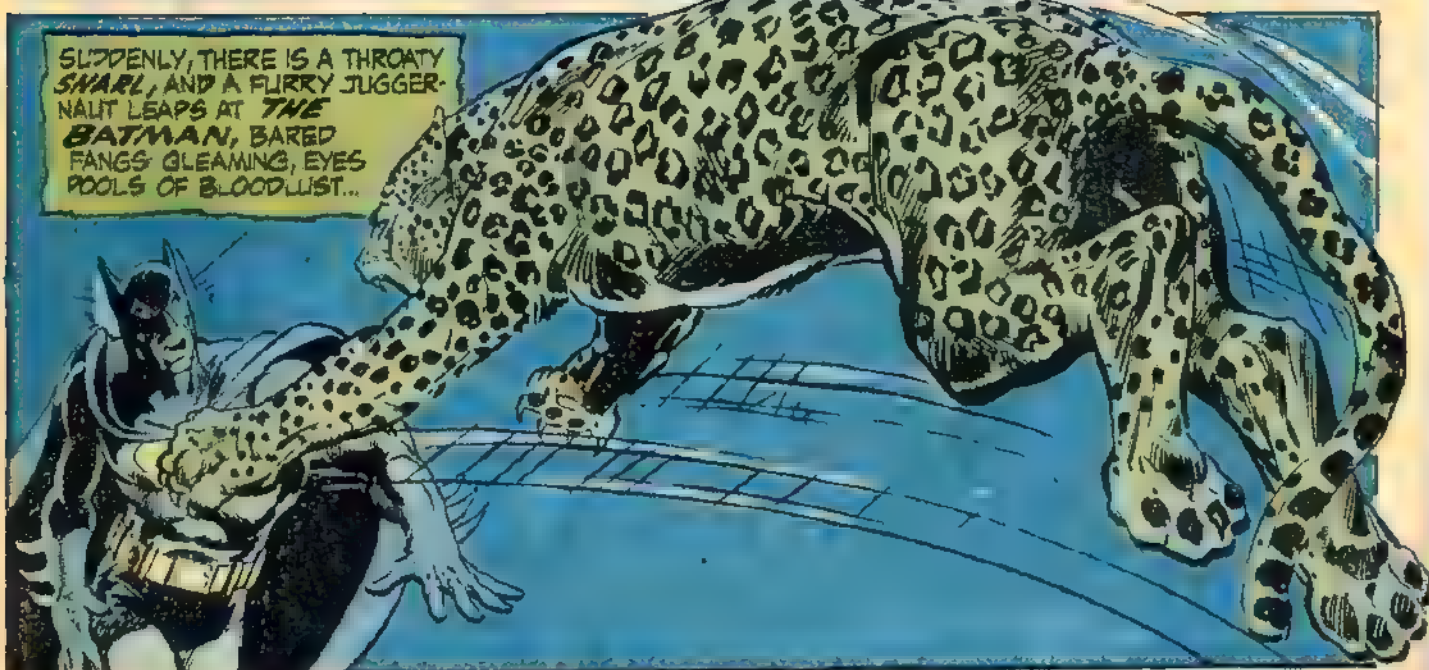
IT ONLY INCREASES MY FURY!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.









SUDDENLY, THERE IS A THROATY SHARL, AND A FLURRY JUGGERNAUT LEAPS AT **THE BATMAN**, BARED FANGS GLEAMING, EYES POOLS OF BLOODLUST...

ALMOST WITHOUT THINKING, **THE BATMAN** SMASHES HIS ELBOW DEEP INTO THE MOUTH OF THE ENRAGED LEOPARD... LOCKING ITS JAWS OPEN...



AS HE FALLS, **BATMAN** SIDE STEPS... AVOIDING THE RAKING HAND CLAWS WHICH SEARCH THE AIR, FALLING TO DISEMBOWEL...

THEN, WITH SPLIT-SECOND TIMING, **THE BATMAN** DRIVES HIMSELF IN AND AROUND THE FELINE FURY...



...AND INSIDE THE RANGE OF THE RAKING CLAWS, **THE BATMAN** BEGINS TO FORCE HIS ELBOW FORWARD... UNTIL...

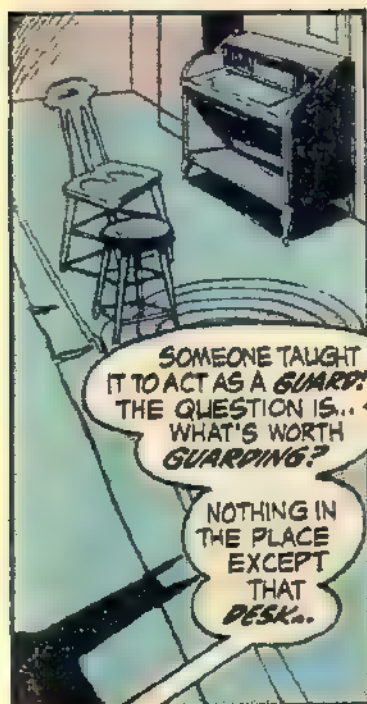
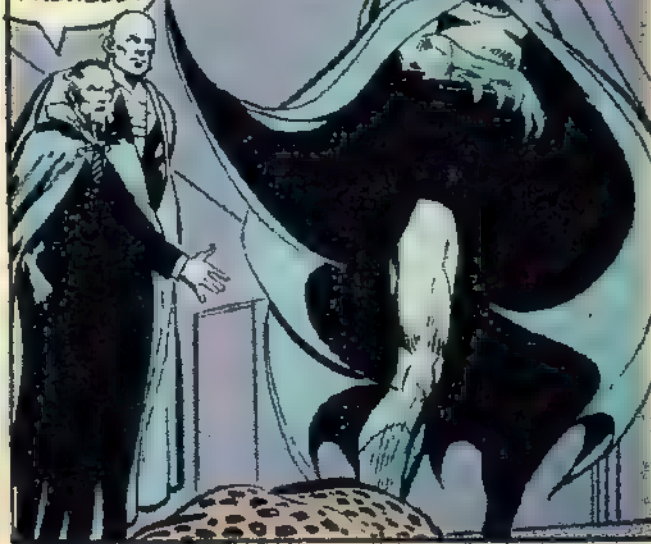




PANTING, THE CAPED WARRIOR STANDS, AS RA'S AL GHUL MURMURS CONGRATULATIONS...

EXCELLENT, DETECTIVE! IS THERE NO LIMIT TO YOUR PRONESS?

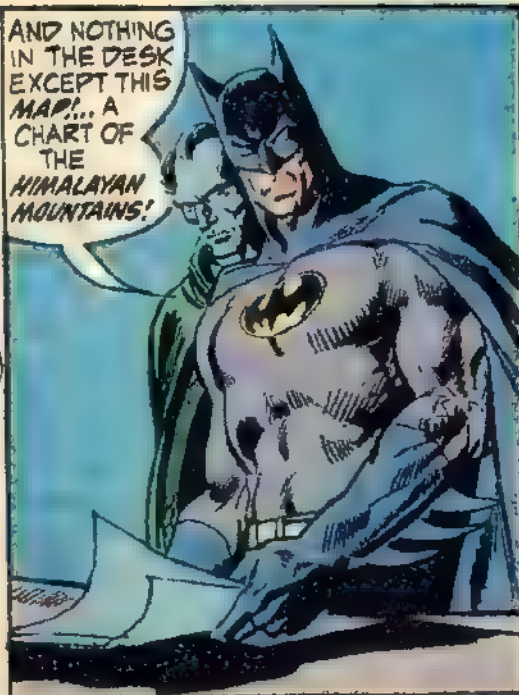
THAT LEOPARD WAS TRAINED!



SOMEONE TAUGHT IT TO ACT AS A GUARD! THE QUESTION IS... WHAT'S WORTH GUARDING?

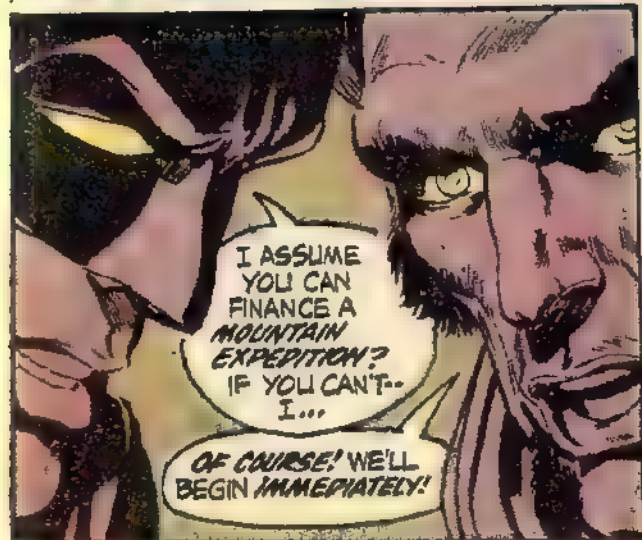
NOTHING IN THE PLACE EXCEPT THAT DESK...

AND NOTHING IN THE DESK EXCEPT THIS MAP!... A CHART OF THE HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS!



UMMM...THERES SOMETHING INTERESTING!...A FAINT SCRATCH ON THE PAPER...

...AS THOUGH SOMEONE WITH A LONG FINGERNAIL TRACED A ROUTE!



I ASSUME YOU CAN FINANCE A MOUNTAIN EXPEDITION? IF YOU CAN'T-- I...

OF COURSE! WE'LL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY!




OH...LEST I FORGET!-- AFTER YOU!

CONTINUED ON 42 PAGE FOLLOWING



MOUNT NANDA DEVI, ONE OF THE MIGHTY HIMALAYAS...  
RISING FROM THE WASTELANDS BETWEEN INDIA AND TIBET  
25,645 FEET INTO THIN, BRUTALLY COLD AIR! TREACHEROUS,  
SAVAGE TERRAIN THAT ALLOWS ANY WHO DARES IT ONLY  
ONE MISTAKE...

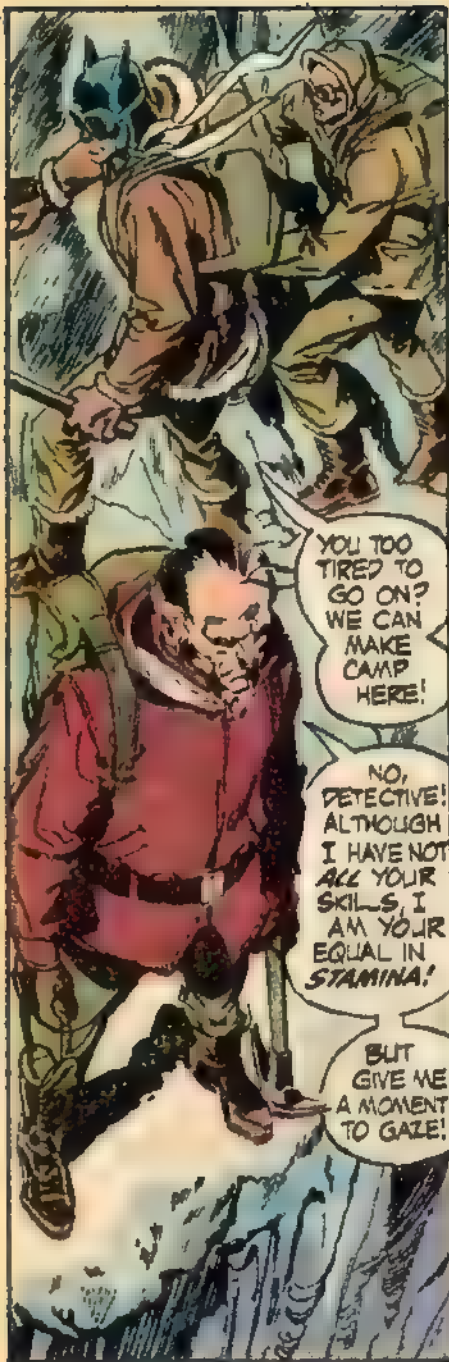
TO THIS NIGHTMARE OF BUSTERING WIND AND BLINDING  
SNOW TREK **THE BATMAN** AND HIS TWO STRANGE  
COMPANIONS...



IT HASN'T SNOWED  
FOR SEVERAL DAYS! THE  
TRAIL IS STILL CLEAR!

YES! THE ABDUCTORS  
OBVIOUSLY BROUGHT  
YOUR WARD AND MY  
DAUGHTER UP THIS  
WAY!





YOU TOO  
TIRED TO  
GO ON?  
WE CAN  
MAKE  
CAMP  
HERE!

NO,  
DETECTIVE!  
ALTHOUGH  
I HAVE NOT  
ALL YOUR  
SKILLS, I  
AM YOUR  
EQUAL IN  
STAMINA!

BUT  
GIVE ME  
A MOMENT  
TO GAZE!



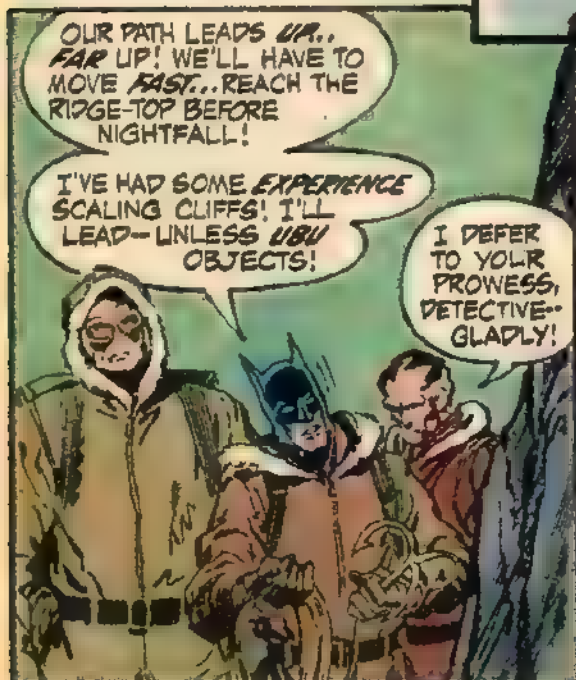
IT IS A BEAUTY TO WHICH  
MY SOUL RESPONDS... SO  
STARK, SO PURE... AS  
UNTAINED AS MY  
DESERT HOME!

I AM CURSED  
WITH A LOVE FOR  
EMPTYNESS...  
DESOLATION!



TELL ME  
YOUR LIFE -  
STORY LATER...  
WHEN THE KIDS  
ARE SAFE!

THESE FOOT-  
AND-HAND-HOLDS  
HAVE BEEN  
HACKED FROM  
THE ICE  
RECENTLY!



OUR PATH LEADS UP...  
FAR UP! WE'LL HAVE TO  
MOVE FAST... REACH THE  
RIDGE-TOP BEFORE  
NIGHTFALL!

I'VE HAD SOME EXPERIENCE  
SCALING CLIFFS! I'LL  
LEAD-- UNLESS UBU  
OBJECTS!

I DEFER  
TO YOUR  
PROWESS,  
DETECTIVE--  
GLADLY!

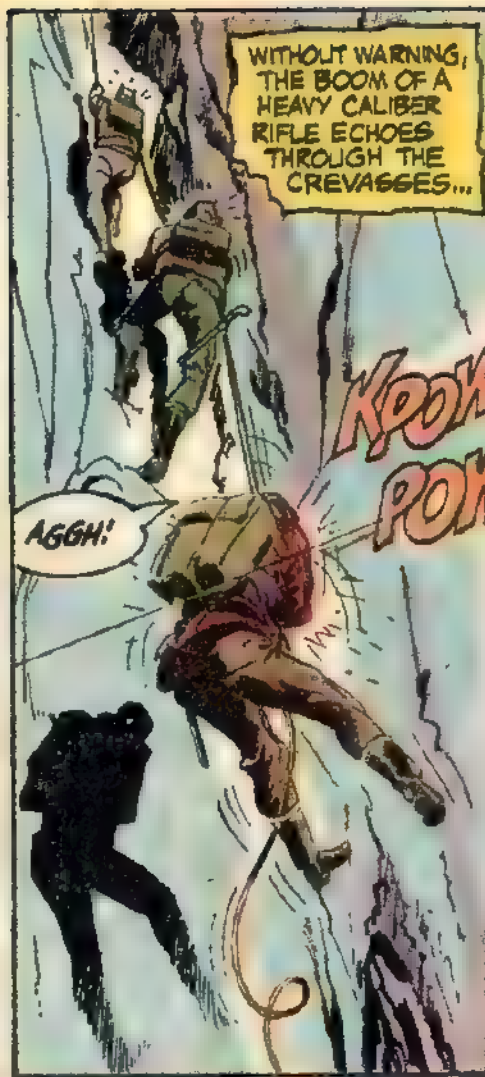


INCH BY DANGEROUS  
INCH, THEY ASCEND...  
ONLY A THIN ROPE  
BETWEEN THEM  
AND A QUICK  
PLUNGE TO DEATH!  
FINGERS AND FACES  
GROW NUMB, AND  
THE BREATH  
RATTLES HARSHLY  
IN THEIR THROATS--





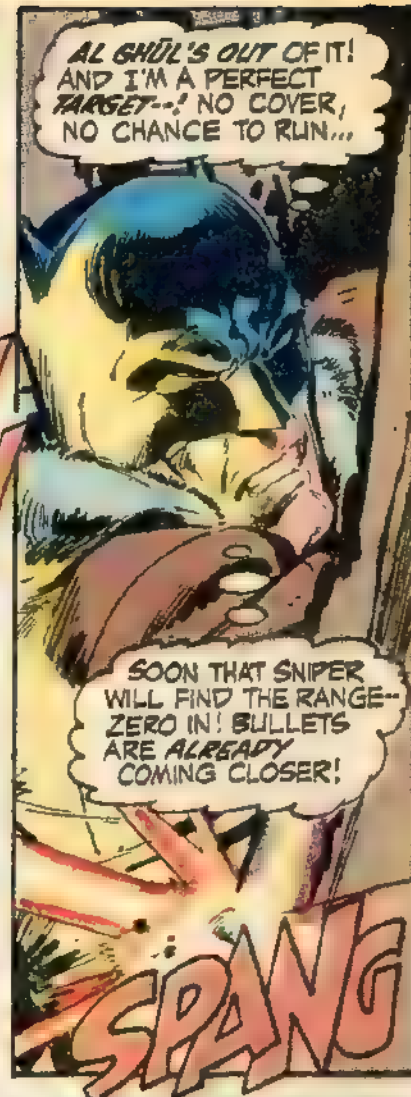
STILL, THEY FORCE THEMSELVES FARTHER! **THE BATMAN** FINDS HIS PATH SURELY, SWIFTLY...UNAWARE THAT HE IS FRAMED IN A GUNSIGHT!



WITHOUT WARNING, THE BOOM OF A HEAVY CALIBER RIFLE ECHOES THROUGH THE CREVASSES...

AGGH!

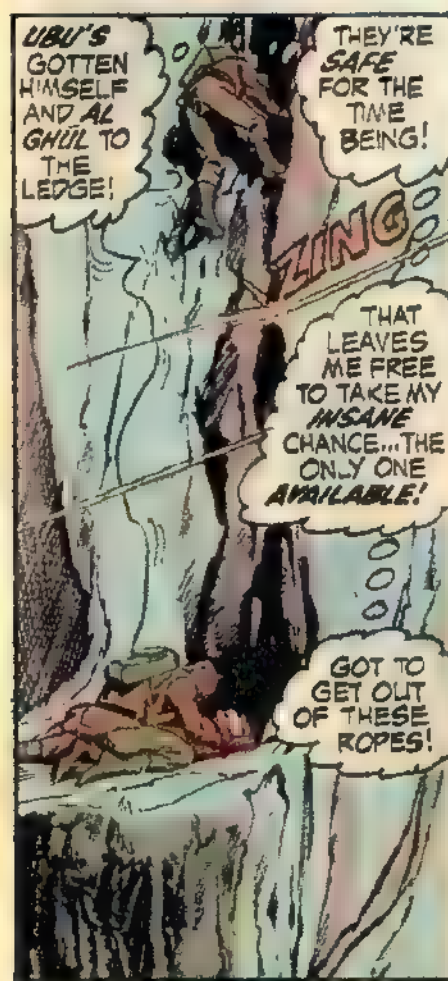
KPOW  
POW



**AL GHUL'S OUT OF IT!** AND I'M A PERFECT **TARGET--!** NO COVER, NO CHANCE TO RUN...

SOON THAT SNIPER WILL FIND THE RANGE--ZERO IN! BULLETS ARE **ALREADY** COMING CLOSER!

SPANG

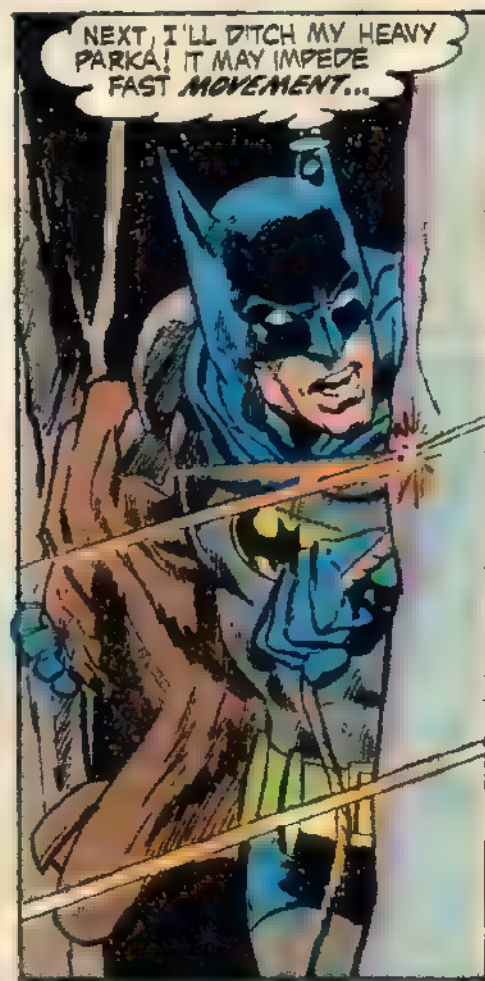


**UBU'S** GOTTEN HIMSELF AND **AL GHUL** TO THE LEDGE!

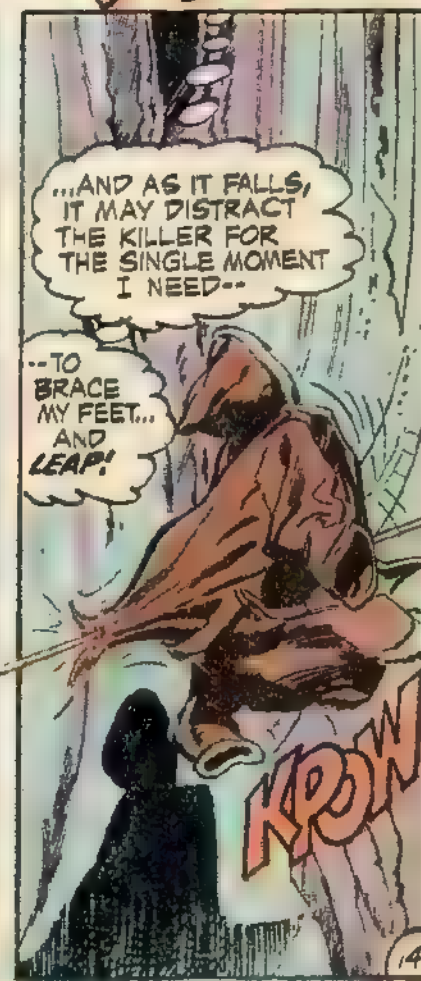
THEY'RE **SAFE** FOR THE TIME BEING!

THAT LEAVES ME FREE TO TAKE MY **INSANE** CHANCE...THE ONLY ONE AVAILABLE!

GOT TO GET OUT OF THESE ROPES!



NEXT, I'LL DITCH MY HEAVY PARKA! IT MAY IMPEDE FAST **MOVEMENT**...

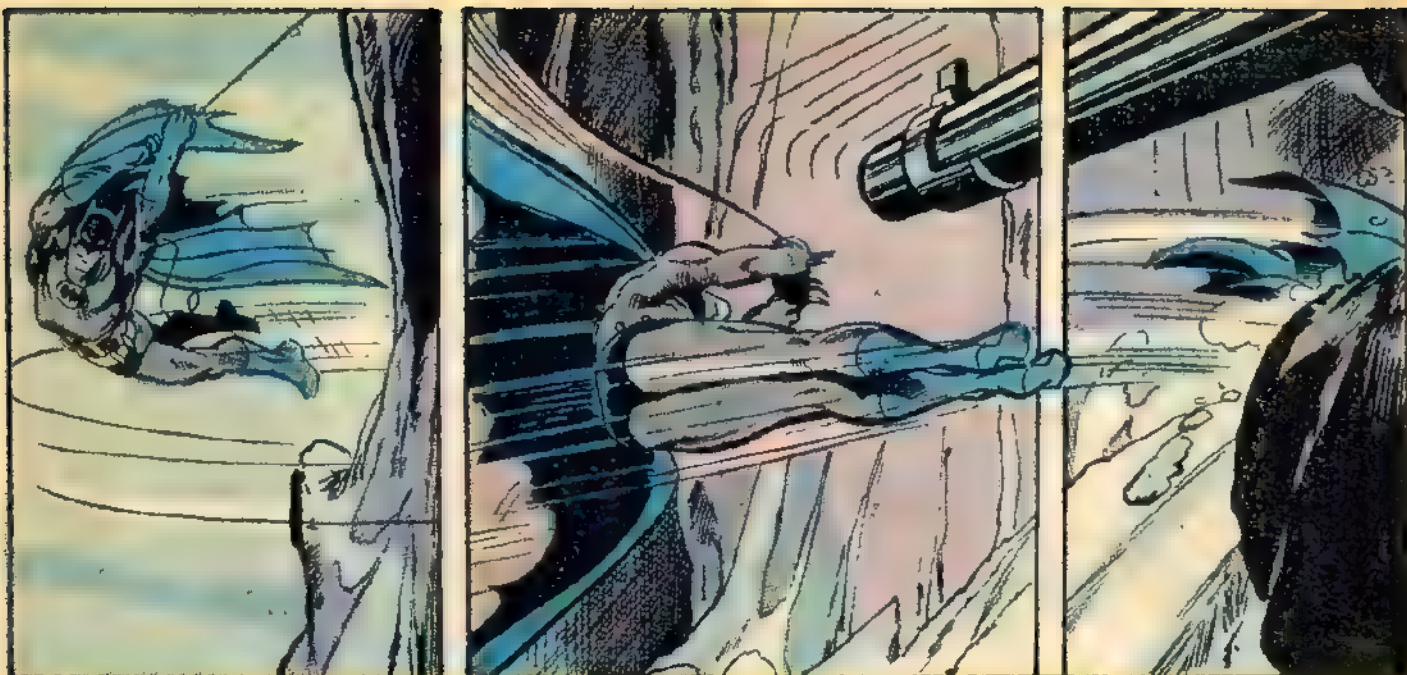


...AND AS IT FALLS, IT MAY DISTRACT THE KILLER FOR THE SINGLE MOMENT I NEED--

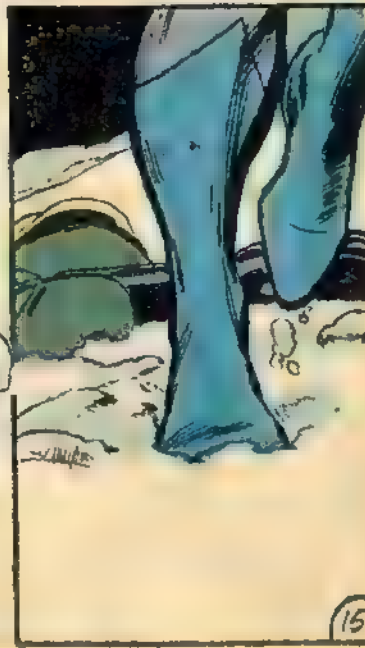
--TO BRACE MY FEET... AND LEAP!

KPOW

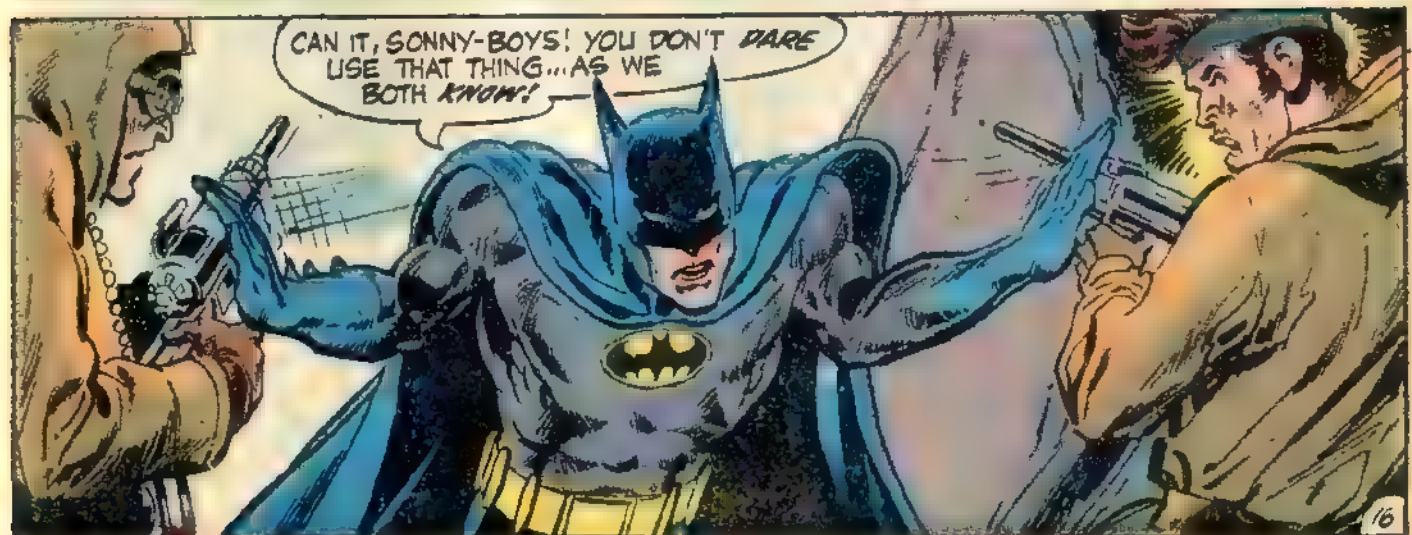
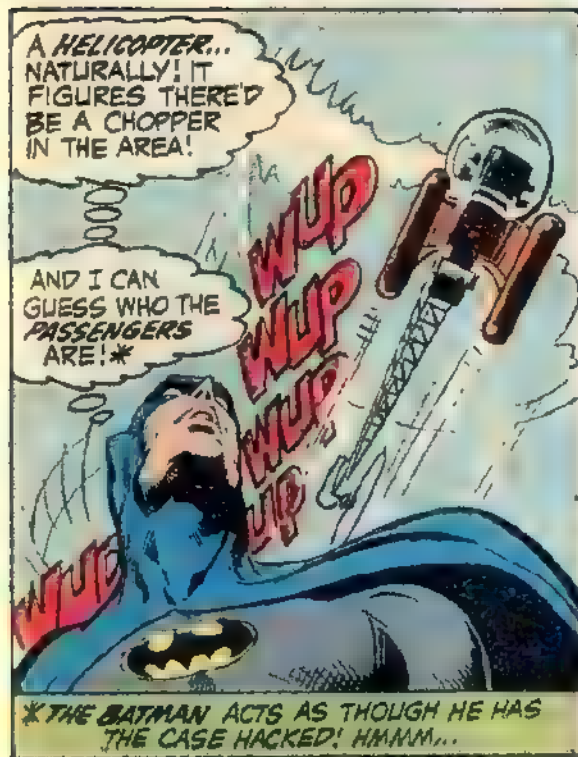
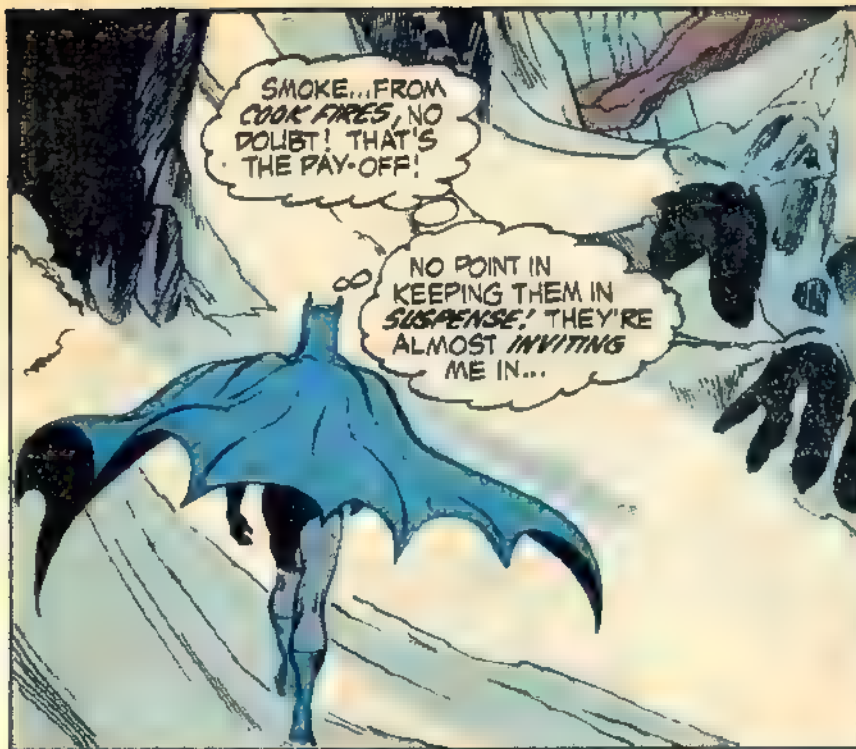




ACROSS THE CHILL CHASM HE FLINGS HIMSELF--A FINAL, DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO REACH THE STEEP SLOPE FIFTEEN FEET AWAY...A MURDERER IN FRONT, AND YAWNING DOOM BELOW..!

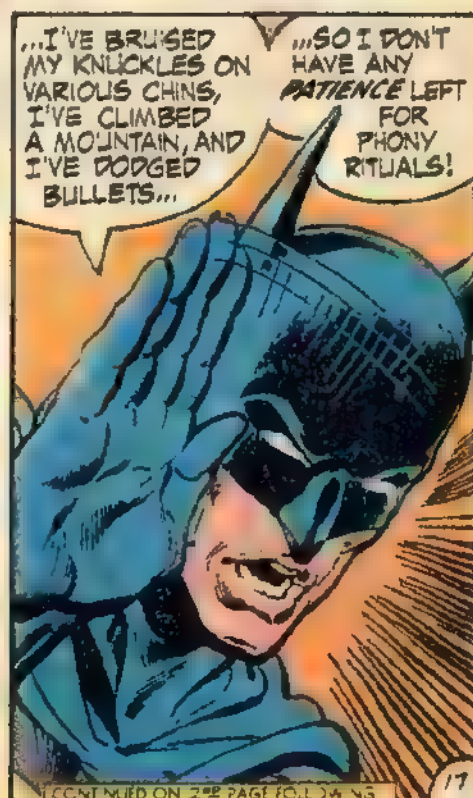
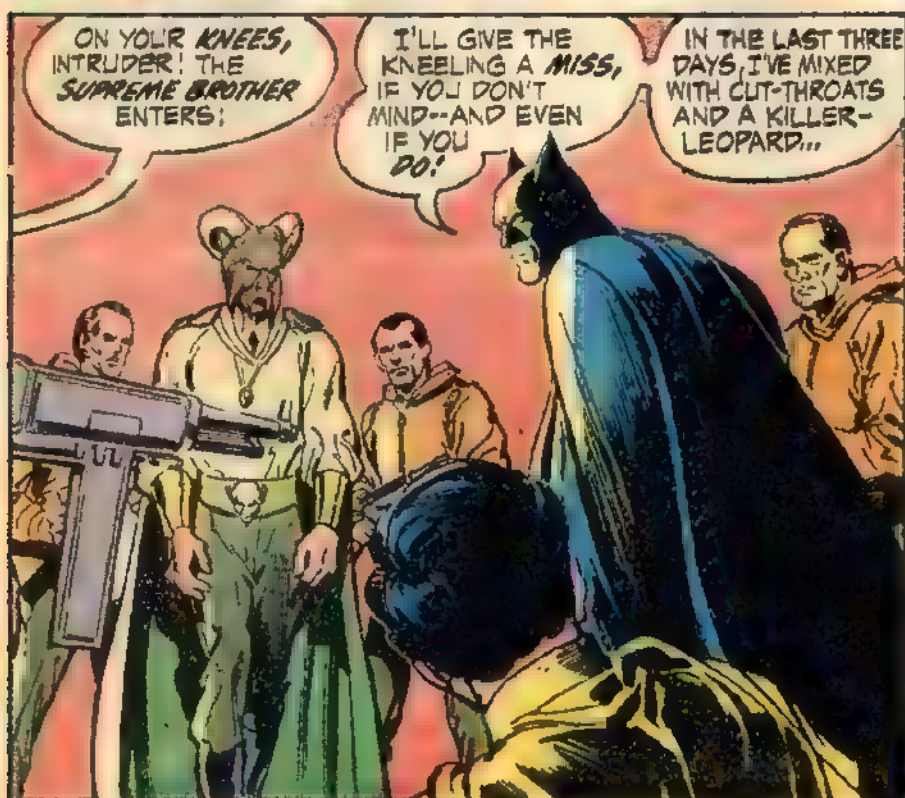
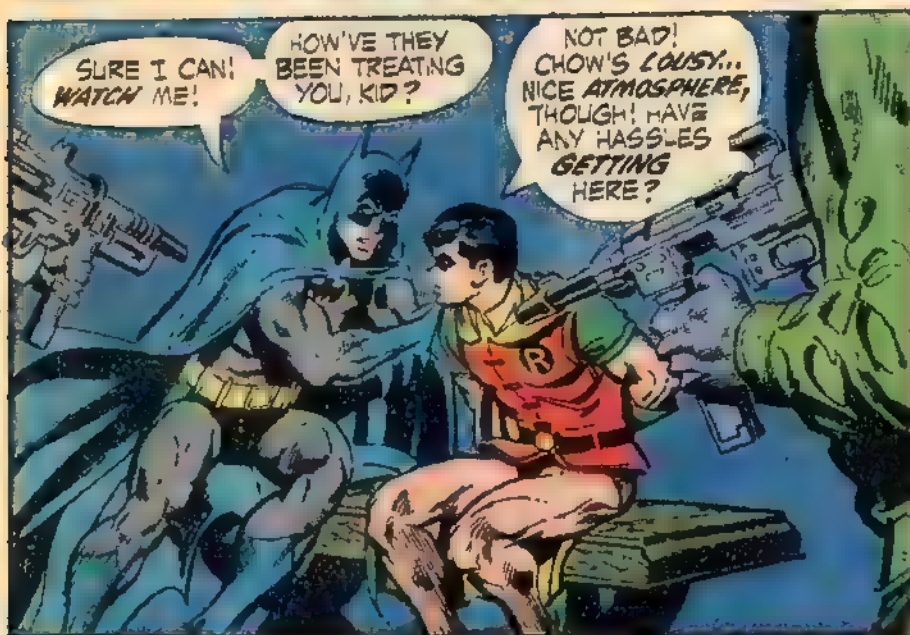
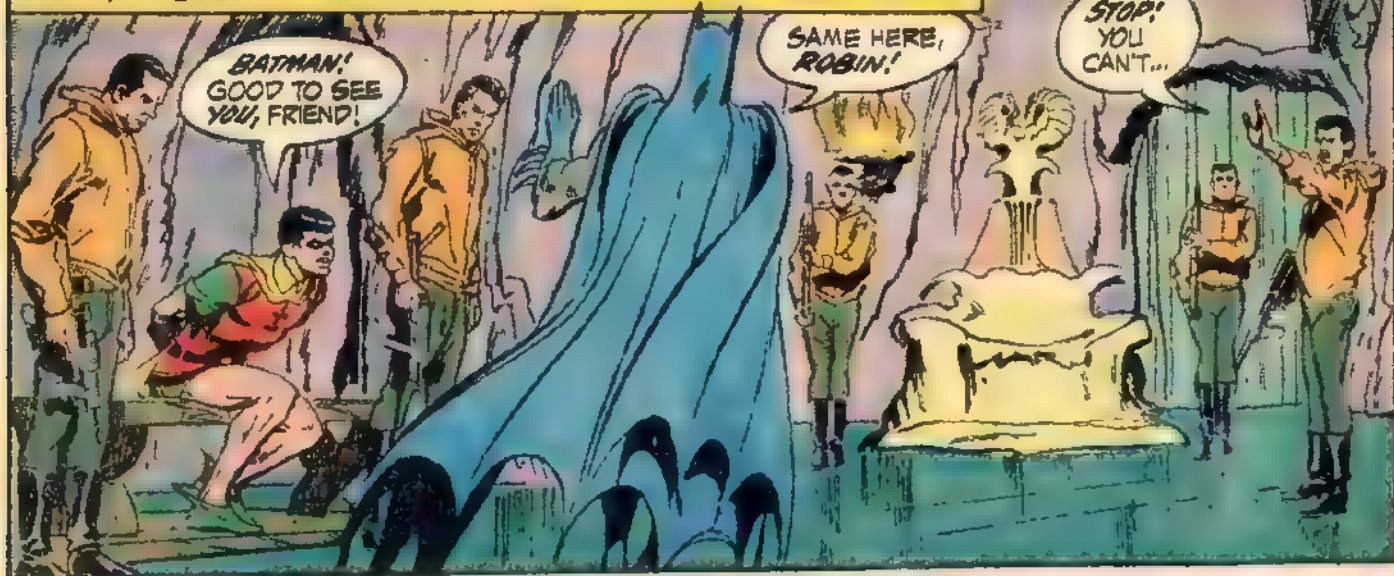






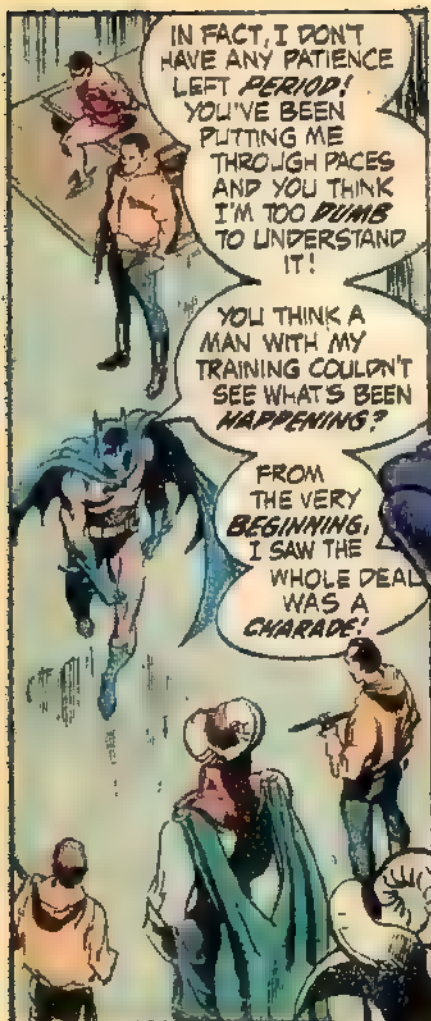


BOLDLY, THE BATMAN STRIDES INTO A CHAMBER HEWN FROM ROCK, AND...



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING





IN FACT, I DON'T HAVE ANY PATIENCE LEFT *PERIOD!* YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING ME THROUGH PAGES AND YOU THINK I'M TOO *DUMB* TO UNDERSTAND IT!

YOU THINK A MAN WITH MY TRAINING COULDN'T SEE WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, I SAW THE WHOLE DEAL WAS A *CHARADE!*

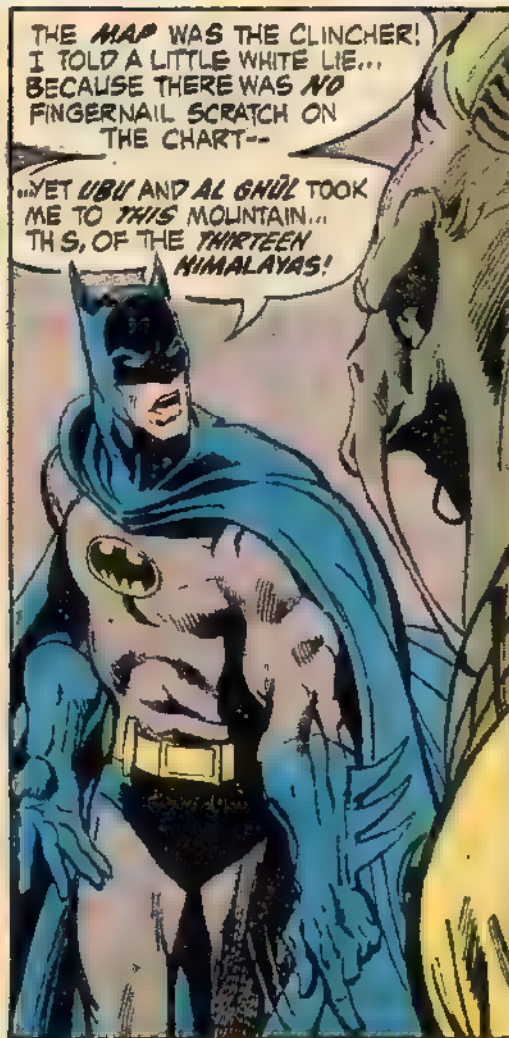
*RÄ'S AL GHÜL* AND HIS OX OF A SERVANT SHOWING RIGHT AFTER *ROBIN* DISAPPEARED... THAT WAS A JOKE!

TOO QUICK... TOO BIG A *COINCIDENCE!* *AL GHÜL'S* STORY OF HIS DAUGHTER'S IDENTICAL DISAPPEARANCE WOULDN'T HAVE FOOLED A *MORON!*

THEN IN *CALCUTTA...* *UBU* ALWAYS MADE A BIG ROUTINE OF LETTING HIS BOSS GO AHEAD OF ME...



...EXCEPT WHEN THERE WAS DANGER! CONCLUSION... *UBU* KNEW THE LEOPARD WAS WAITING!



THE *MAP* WAS THE CLINCHER! I TOLD A LITTLE WHITE LIE... BECAUSE THERE WAS NO FINGERNAIL SCRATCH ON THE CHART--

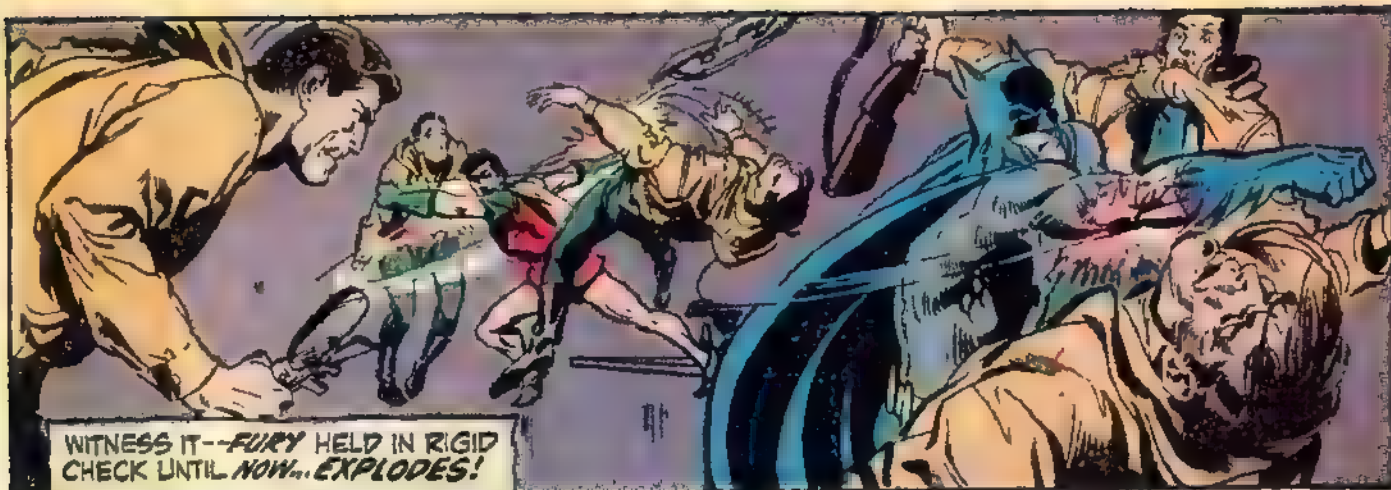
...YET *UBU* AND *AL GHÜL* TOOK ME TO THIS MOUNTAIN... THIS, OF THE THIRTEEN *HIMALAYAS!*



I'M TIRED OF TALKING! YOU READY, *ROBIN*?

CHECK, *BATMAN!* SHALL WE BEGIN?

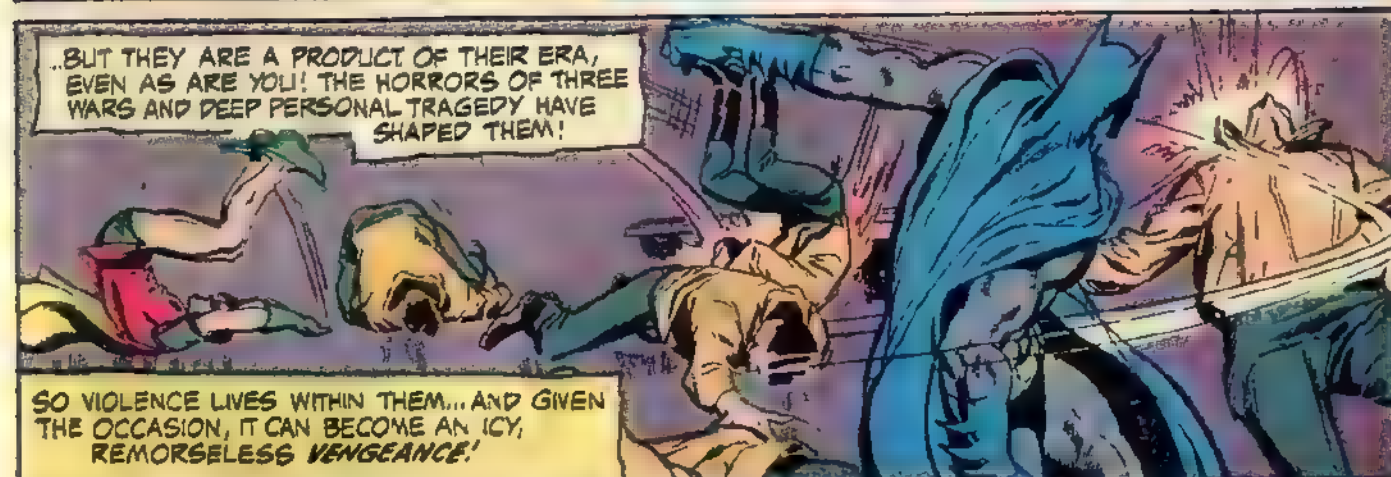




WITNESS IT--*FURY* HELD IN RIGID  
CHECK UNTIL *NOW... EXPLODES!*

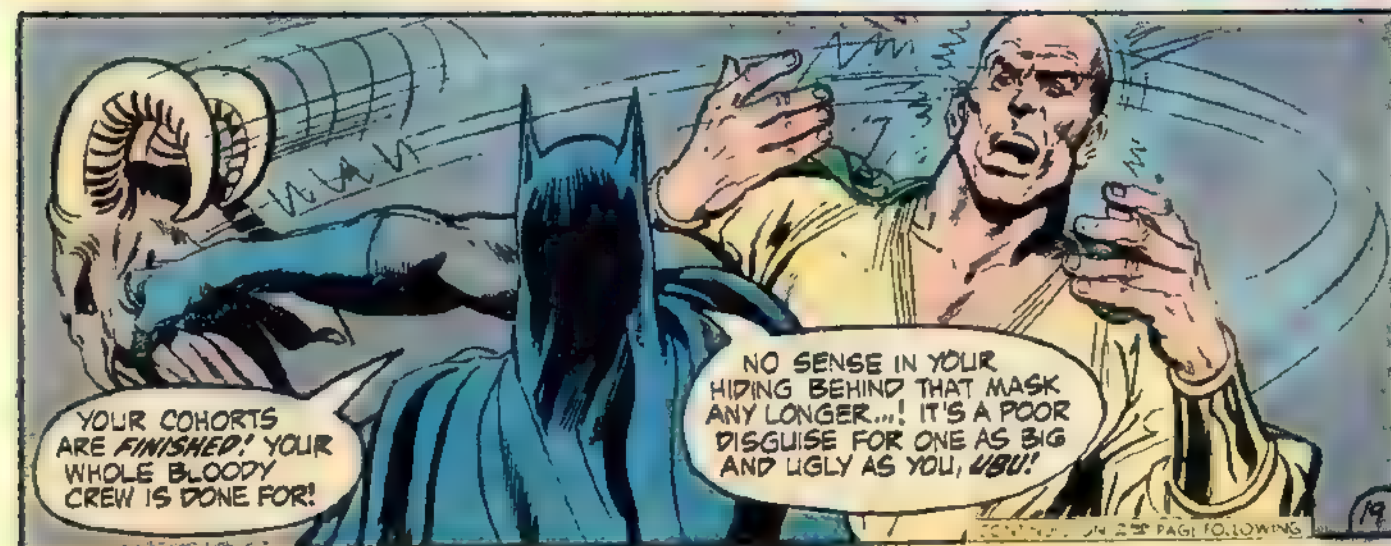


THESE ARE NO BRUTAL BEINGS! THERE  
IS A PART OF THEIR HEARTS THAT  
*DESPISES* VIOLENCE...



..BUT THEY ARE A PRODUCT OF THEIR ERA,  
EVEN AS ARE YOU! THE HORRORS OF THREE  
WARS AND DEEP PERSONAL TRAGEDY HAVE  
SHAPED THEM!

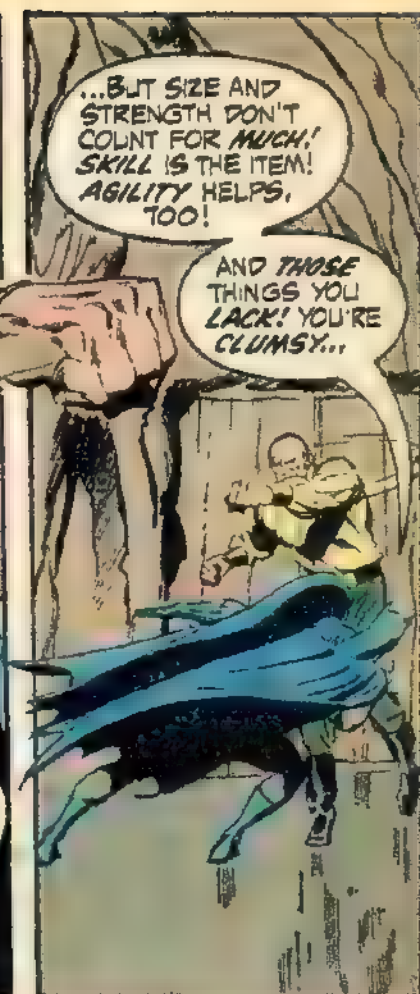
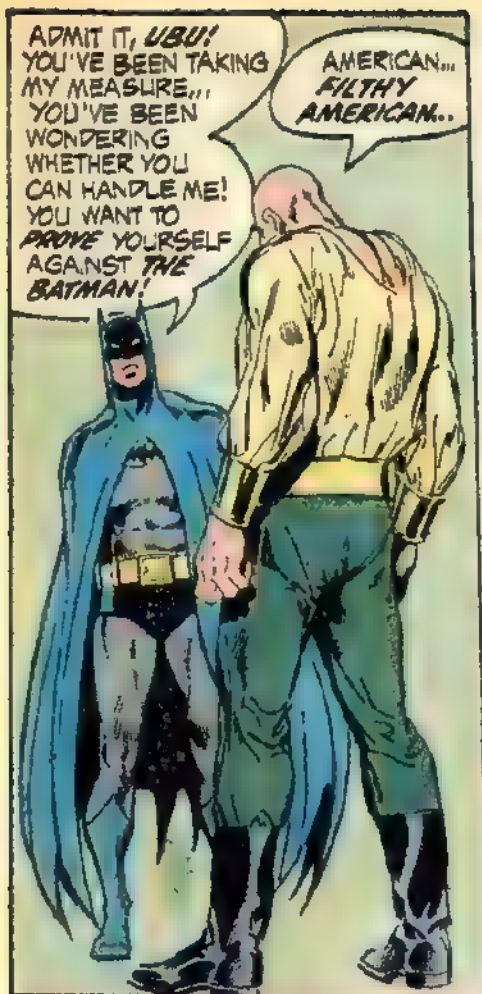
SO VIOLENCE LIVES WITHIN THEM... AND GIVEN  
THE OCCASION, IT CAN BECOME AN ICY,  
REMORSELESS *VENGEANCE!*



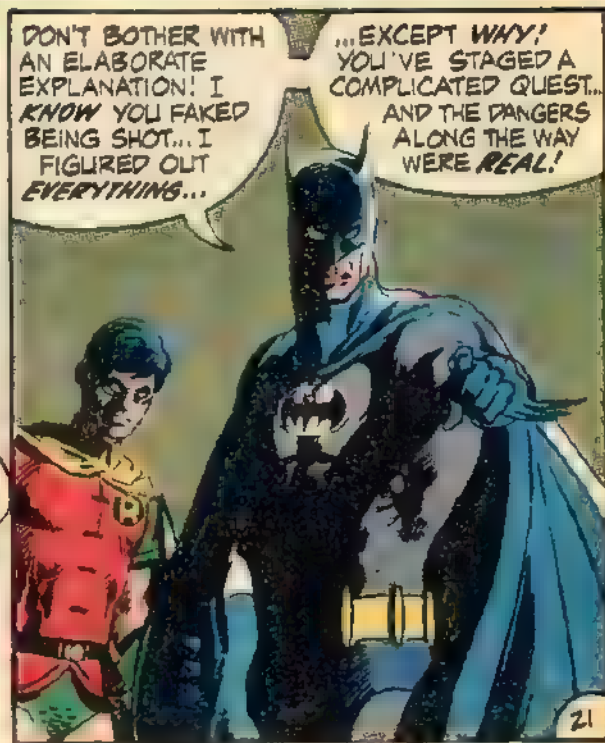
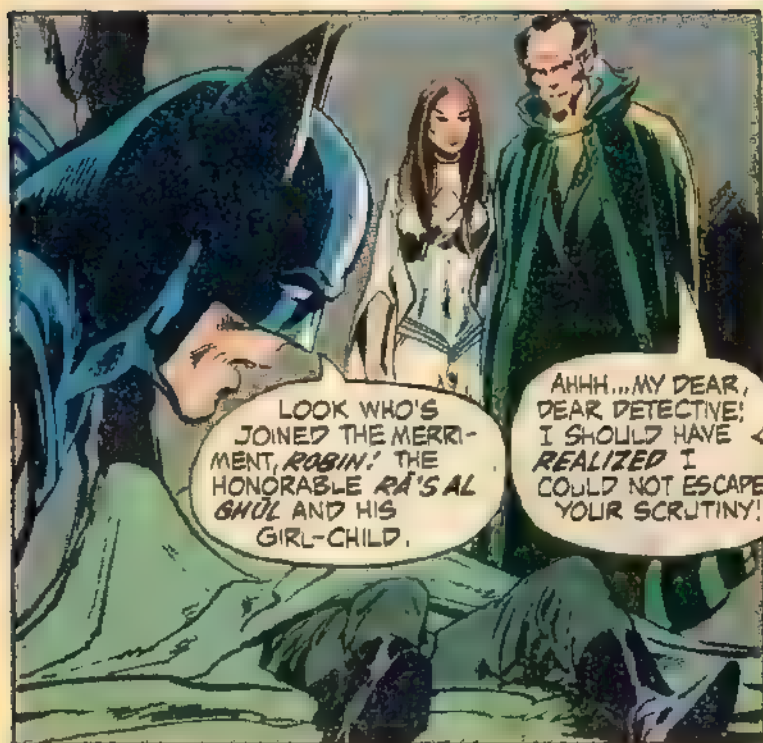
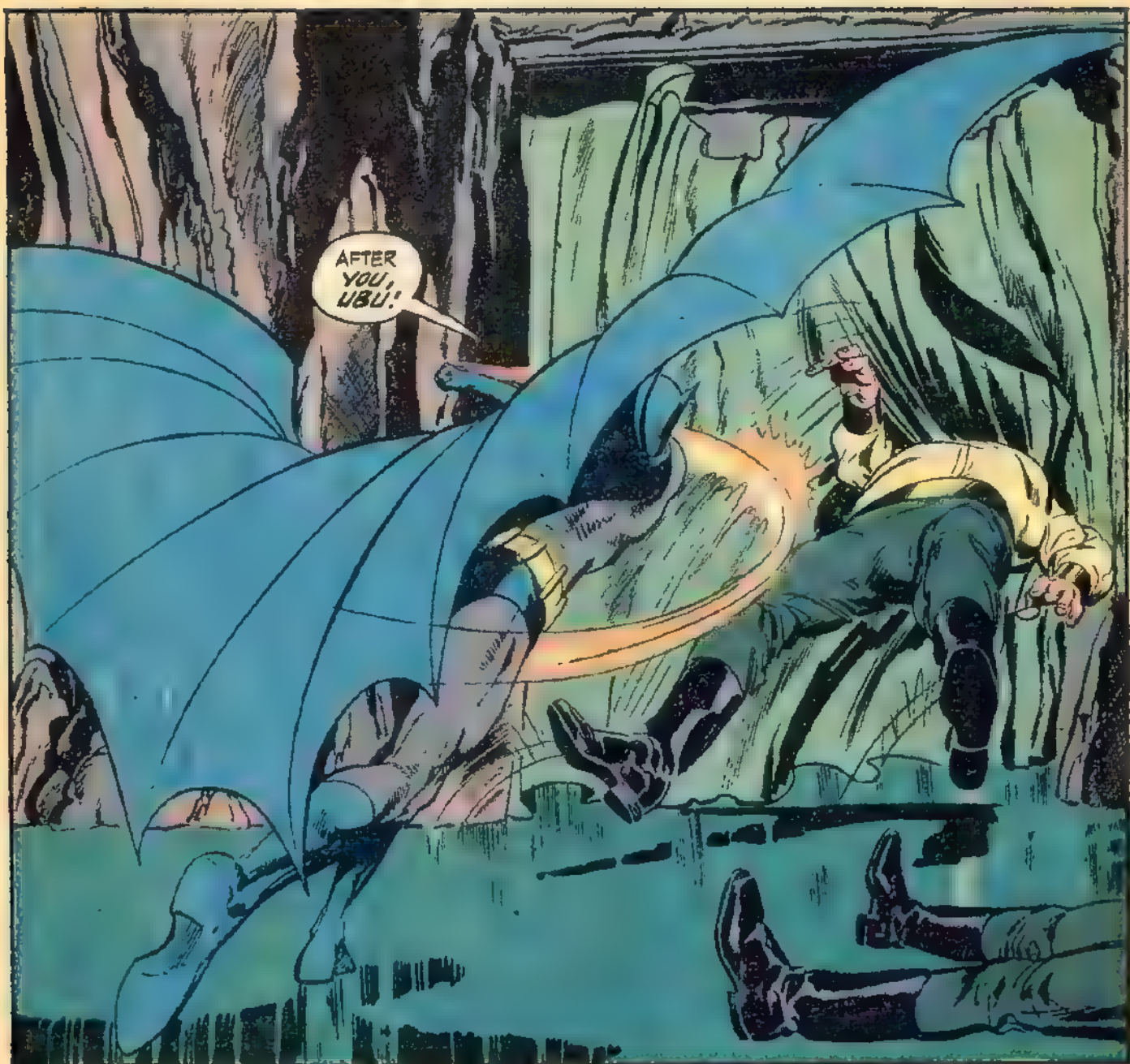
YOUR COHORTS  
ARE *FINISHED!* YOUR  
WHOLE BLOODY  
CREW IS DONE FOR!

NO SENSE IN YOUR  
HIDING BEHIND THAT MASK  
ANY LONGER...! IT'S A POOR  
DISGUISE FOR ONE AS BIG  
AND UGLY AS YOU, *YBU!*













YOU WOULD HAVE  
LET ME BE KILLED  
IF I HADN'T SAVED  
MYSELF! YOU WENT  
TO A LOT OF  
TROUBLE FOR  
A GAME!

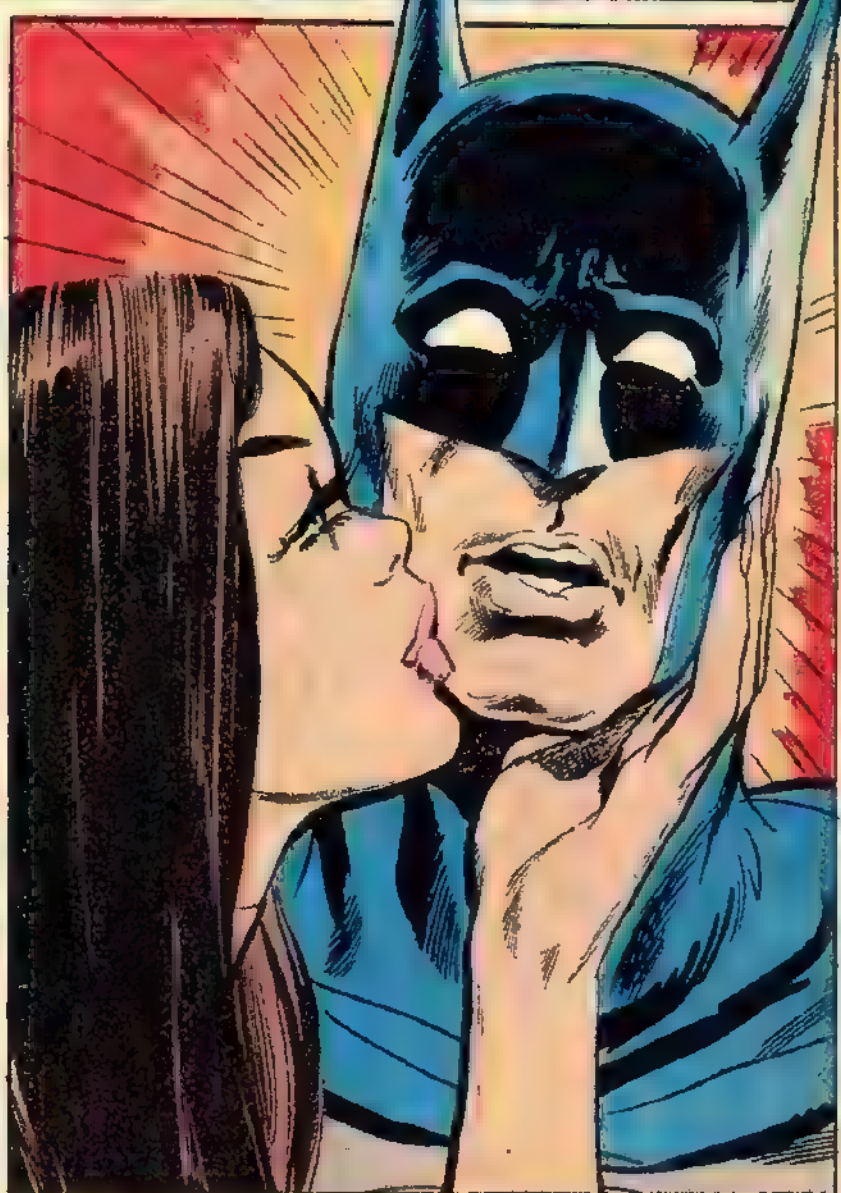
NO GAME,  
DETECTIVE! YOUR  
ADMIRABLE MIND  
HAS REASONED  
ALL SAVE THE  
OBVIOUS...



...THAT MY  
DARLING TALIA  
LOVES YOU!

MY  
ORGANIZATION  
IS VAST...!  
I CONSIDER  
RETIRING  
FROM MY  
ACTIVITIES--!

I HAD TO  
SATISFY  
MYSELF  
THAT YOU  
ARE A  
WORTHY  
SUCCESSOR  
TO ME!...  
A WORTHY  
SON-IN-  
LAW!



WHO KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT RA'S AL GHUL AND HIS LOVELY  
TALIA ARE PLANNING NEXT?-- CERTAINLY NOT THE BATMAN!  
MORE TO COME SOON!

22

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT MAY 11TH



DC BATMAN

NO. 20  
JUNE  
1943

52  
BIG pages  
DON'T TAKE LESS  
ONLY  
25¢

# BATMAN

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COMICS  
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52 PAGES 25¢

BIGGER AND BETTER

DC BATMAN

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BIGGER AND BETTER



**EXTRA!**  
A  
**ROBIN**  
SOLO-STORY,  
"DEATH-  
POINT!"

**COLLECTOR'S  
ITEM SPECIAL!**  
"THE  
PEOPLE  
VS  
The **BATMAN**"



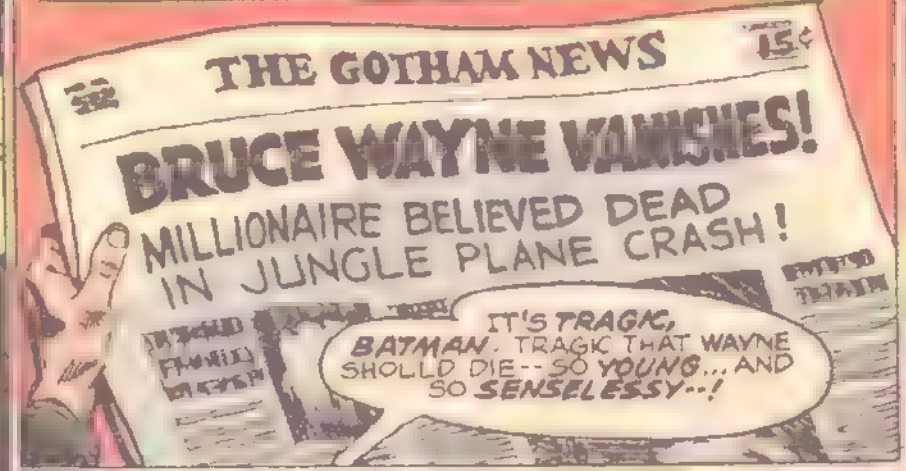
BEGINNING THE MOST SENSATIONAL...  
THE MOST DANGEROUS... AND CERTAINLY  
THE MOST INTERESTING ADVENTURE  
IN THE ILUSTRIOUS CAREER OF THE..

# BATMAN

# BRUCE WAYNE REST IN PEACE!

STORY: DENNY O'NEIL ~ ART: IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO ~ EDITING: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

AT THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER GORDON, OF THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE...



HE WAS ONE MILLIONAIRE WHO USED HIS WEALTH-- INSTEAD OF LETTING IT USE HIM!

I WONDER WHY HE DARED FLY A SMALL PLANE OVER THAT JUNGLE-- ALONE?



WAYNE ALWAYS WAS A BIT HEADSTRONG!

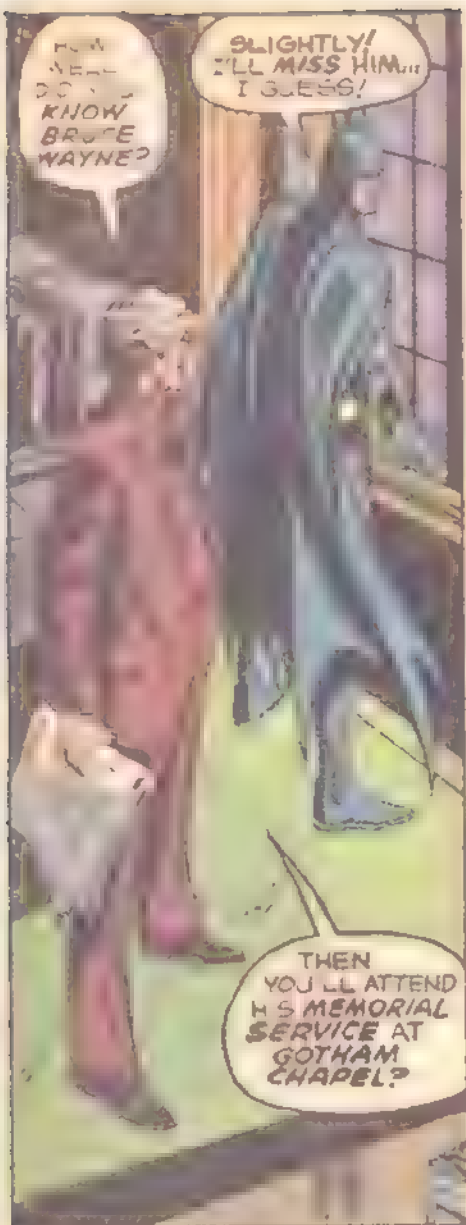
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HOW  
WELL  
DO YOU  
KNOW  
BRUCE  
WAYNE?

SLIGHTLY!  
I'LL MISS HIM...  
I GUESS!

THEN  
YOU'LL ATTEND  
HIS MEMORIAL  
SERVICE AT  
GOTHAM  
CHAPEL?



I'M AFRAID NOT,  
COMMISSONER!  
I'VE GOT BUSINESS  
OUT OF TOWN... OUT  
OF THE COUNTRY,  
IN FACT!

I MAY BE  
GONE SEVERAL  
MONTHS!

ANYTHING  
I CAN HELP  
WITH?



I ONLY WISH YOU  
COULD, SIR! BUT NO...  
THIS IS MY TASK--  
MINE ALONE!



I'LL CALL  
YOU WHEN  
I RETURN--

-- IF I  
RETURN.



I HATED TO LIE! IT  
WAS NECESSARY,  
THOUGH-- NECESSARY  
FOR BRUCE WAYNE  
TO DISAPPEAR--

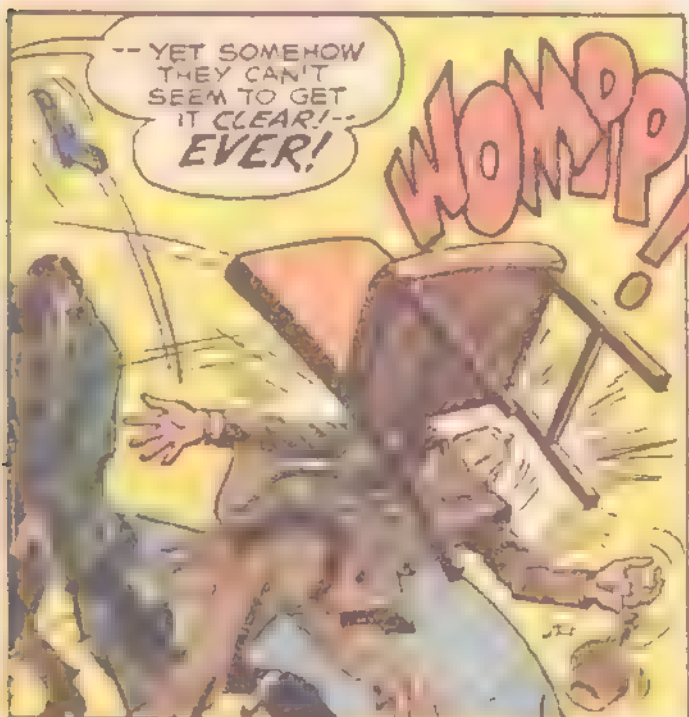
-- BECAUSE  
THE WAR I'M  
WAGING IS  
AGAINST SOME-  
ONE WHO KNOWS  
WAYNE IS THE  
BATMAN!

AND I CAN'T CHANCE  
HIS STRIKING AT ME  
THROUGH MY CIVILIAN  
IDENTITY!

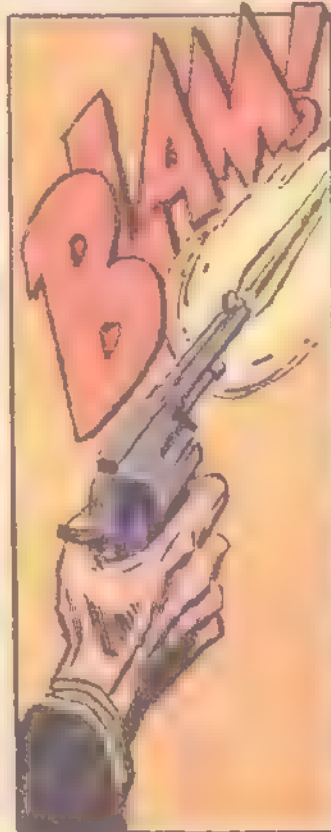
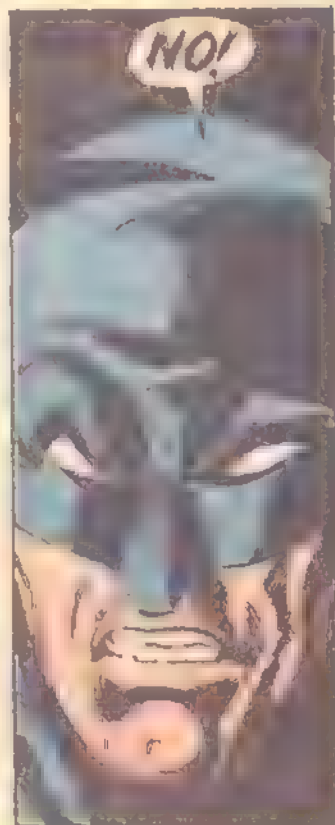
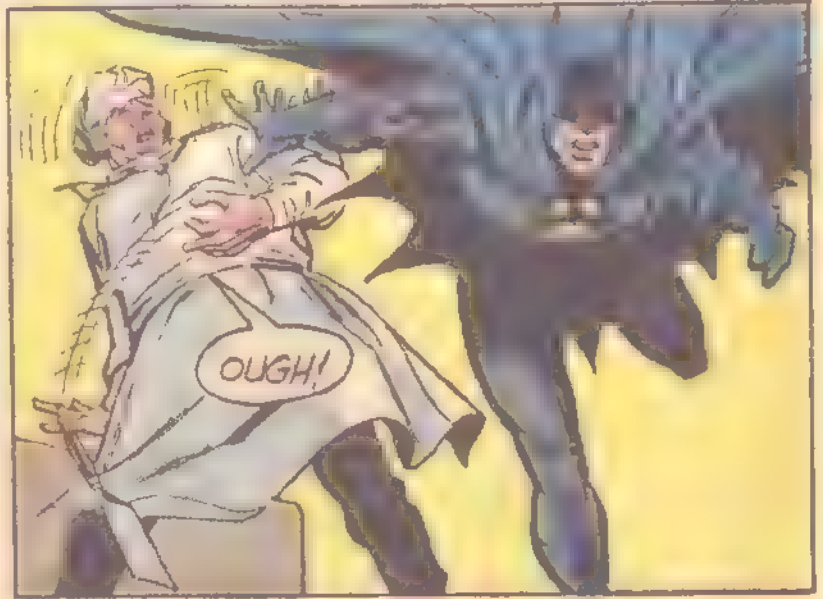














EARLY THE FOLLOWING AFTER-  
NOON, AT A LARGE MIDTOWN HOTEL--



--A SNISTER FIGURE SCANS A CROWD--

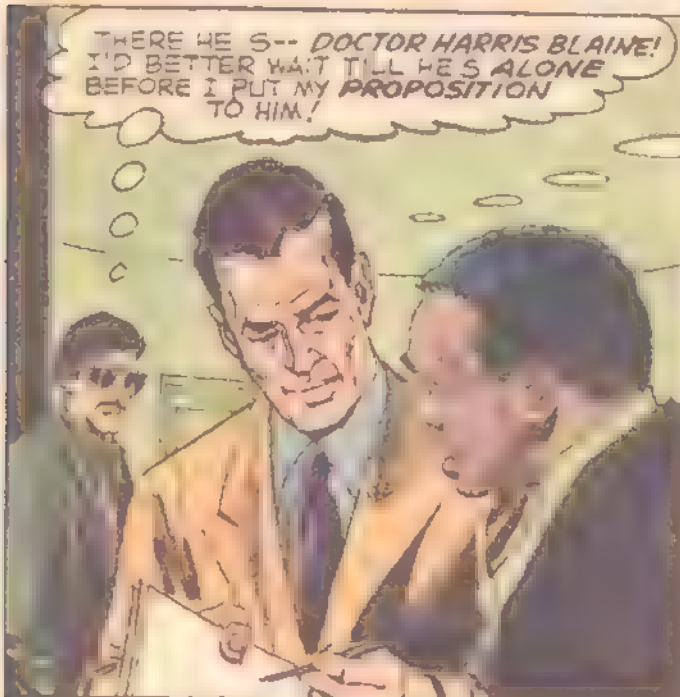
MY *PIGEON* SHOULD BE  
PASSING THIS WAY! HE'S  
THE MAIN SPEAKER AT  
THE *BIOPHYSICS*  
CONVENTION--

--AND THOSE  
GUYS ARE --  
CONVENTIONEERS!

**SNAP**

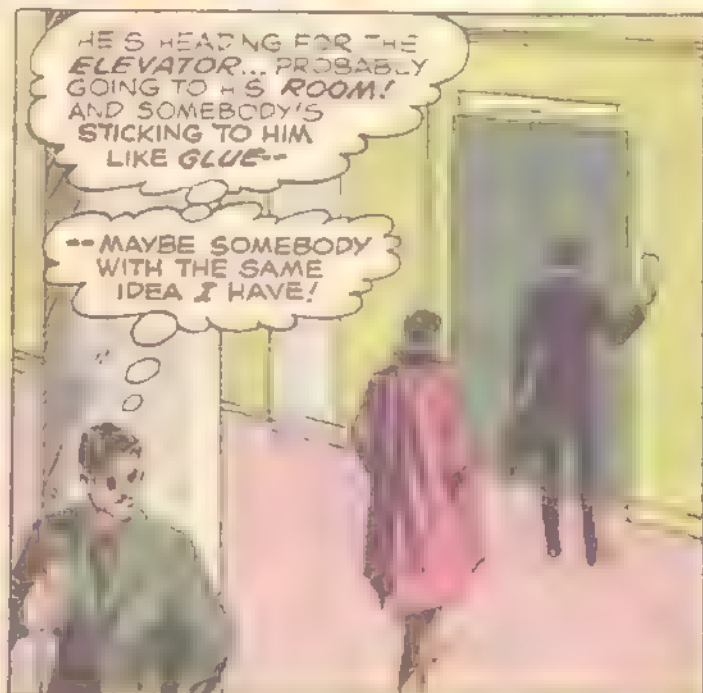


THERE HE S-- *DOCTOR HARRIS BLAINE!*  
I'D BETTER WAIT TILL HE'S *ALONE*  
BEFORE I PUT MY *PROPOSITION*  
TO HIM!



HE'S HEADING FOR THE  
*ELEVATOR*... PROBABLY  
GOING TO HIS *ROOM!*  
AND SOMEBODY'S  
STICKING TO HIM  
LIKE *GLUE*--

--MAYBE SOMEBODY  
WITH THE SAME  
IDEA I HAVE!



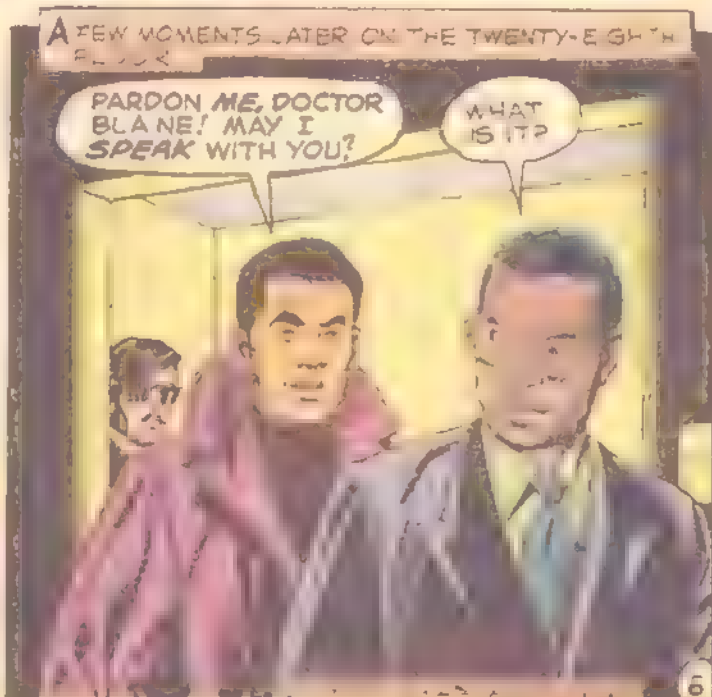
I'LL JUST DRIFT  
IN *WITH THEM*...



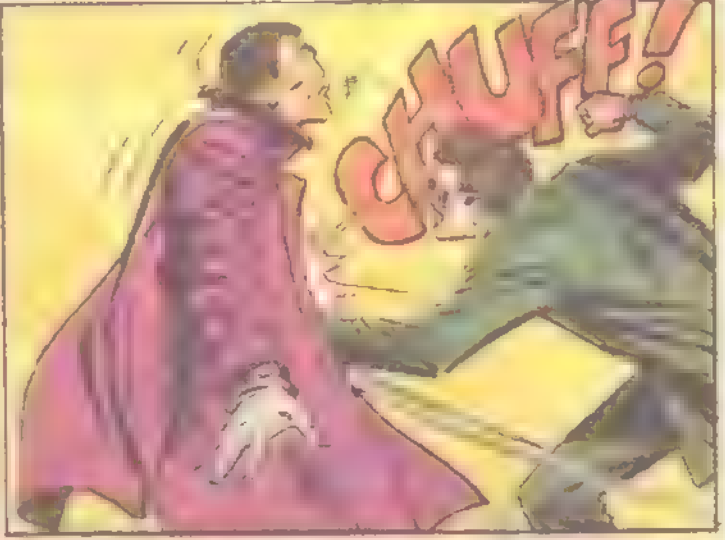
A FEW MOMENTS LATER ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH  
FLOOR

PARDON ME, *DOCTOR*  
*BLAINE!* MAY I  
*SPEAK* WITH YOU?

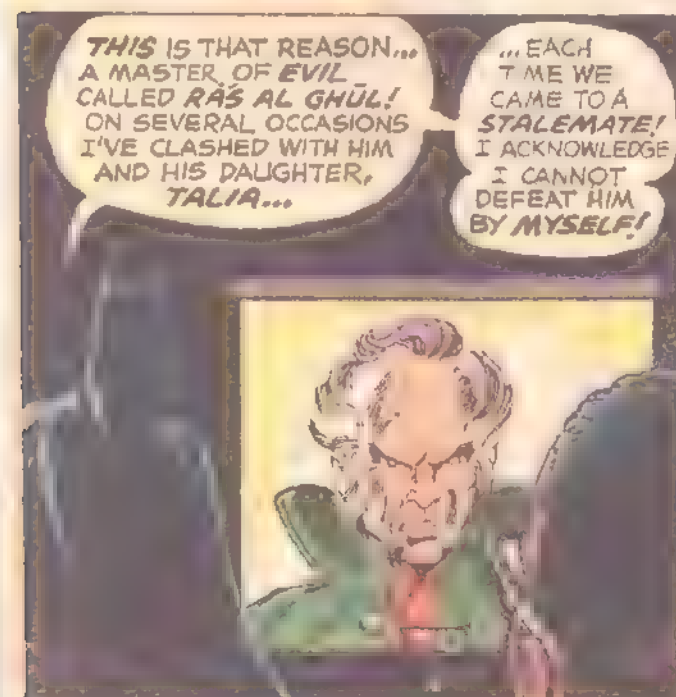
WHAT  
IS IT?



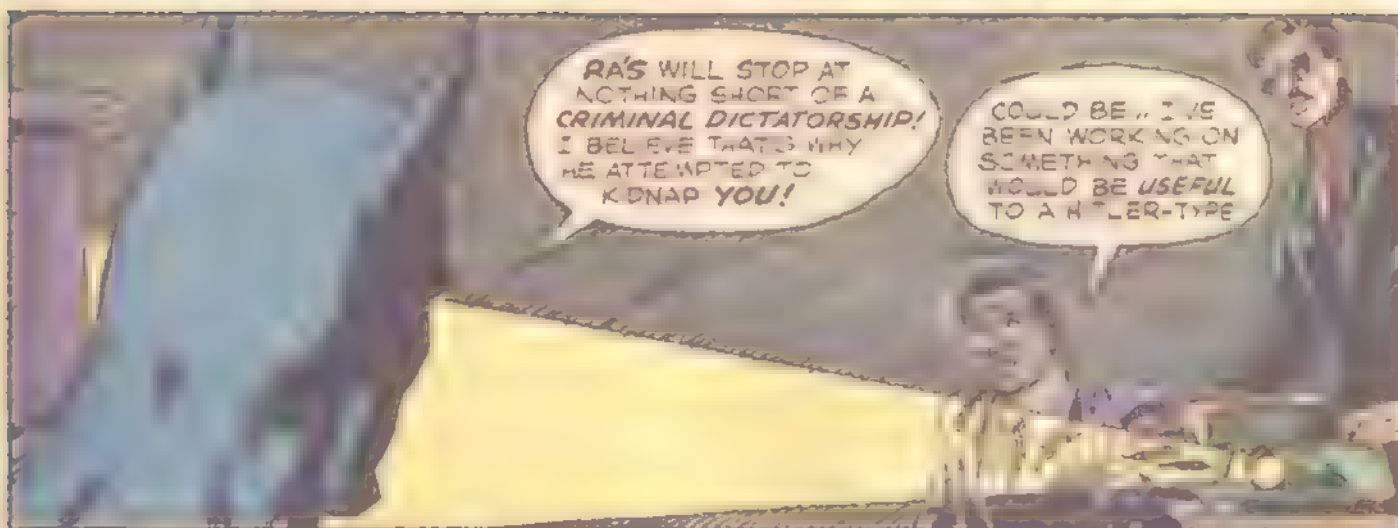












RA'S WILL STOP AT NOTHING SHORT OF A CRIMINAL DICTATORSHIP! I BELIEVE THAT'S WHY HE ATTEMPTED TO KIDNAP YOU!

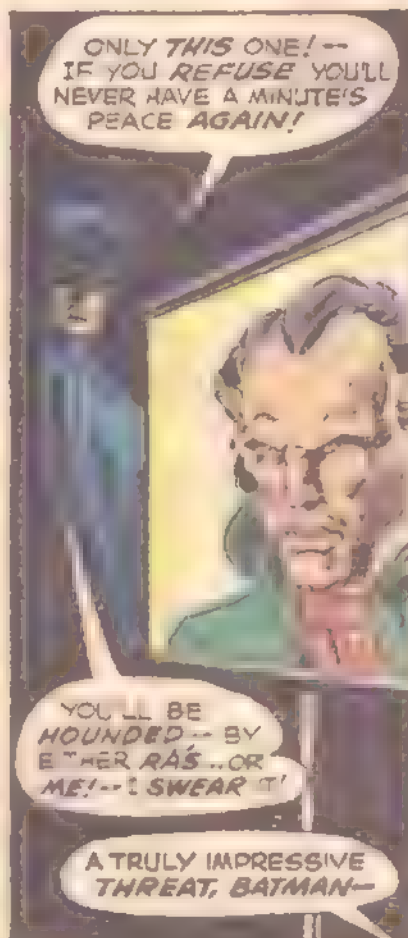
COULD BE... I'VE BEEN WORKING ON SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE USEFUL TO A HITLER-TYPE



DOCTOR, WILL YOU JOIN US-- AGAINST HIM?

I CAN'T PROMISE, OFF-HAND! I'M A SCIENTIST-- NOT A MANHUNTER! --AND YOU HAVEN'T EXACTLY CONVINCED ME...

GOT ANY MORE ARGUMENTS?



ONLY THIS ONE! -- IF YOU REFUSE YOU'LL NEVER HAVE A MINUTE'S PEACE AGAIN!

YOU'LL BE HOUNDED-- BY EITHER RA'S...OR ME!-- I SWEAR IT!

A TRULY IMPRESSIVE THREAT, BATMAN--



-- WHICH YOU WILL NOT LIVE TO IMPLEMENT!

YOU ARE SURPRISED TO SEE ME? BE ADVISED... MORE THAN A FIST IN THE FACE IS REQUIRED TO VANQUISH LO LING!

I WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY STUNNED TO PREVENT MY FOLLOWING YOU!



IT IS INDEED A STRANGE COINCIDENCE-- YOU DISCOVERING RA'S AL GHUL! FOR I SERVE HIM!

IN THE STEPPES OF MY HOMELAND, HE SAVED MY LIFE! ACCORDING TO THE RITES OF MY MONGOL TRIBE I AM THEREFORE HIS SLAVE!



SWELL! YOU THINK WE'RE INTERESTED IN YOUR LIFE STORY, OR SOMETHING?

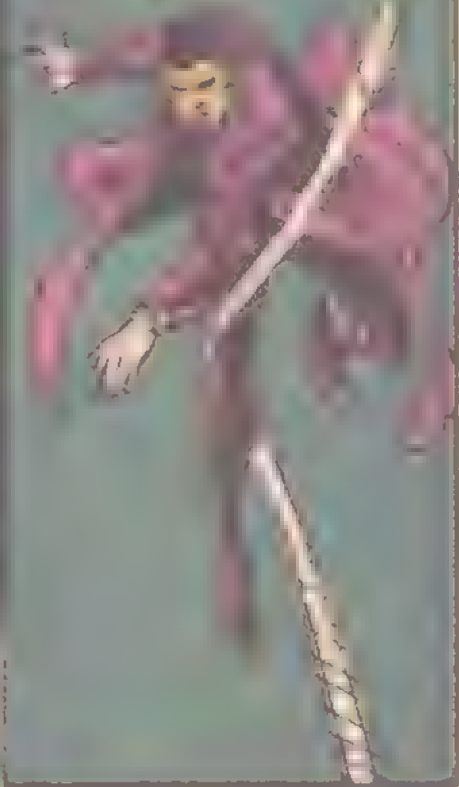
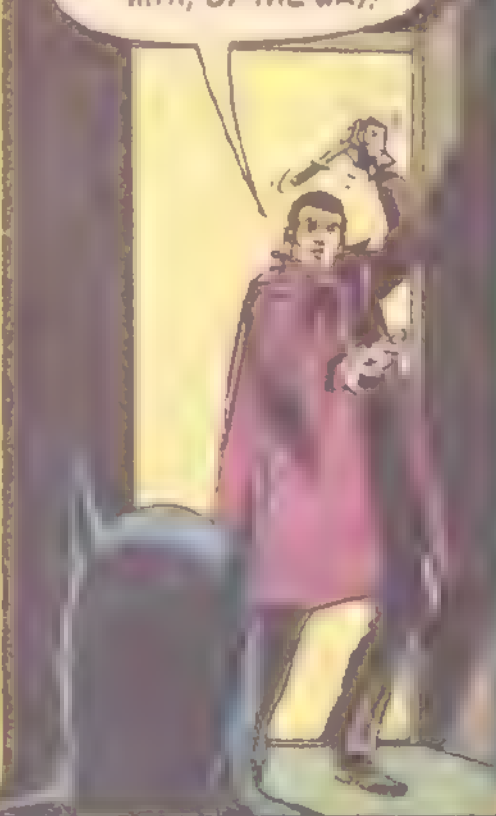
IT'S MERELY COURTEOUS TO EXPLAIN WHY I FIND IT NECESSARY TO ACT AS I AM ABOUT TO!



MASTER RĀ'S AL GHŪL  
CHARGED ME TO CAPTURE  
DOCTOR BLAINE--  
UNLESS I HAPPENED  
TO MEET THE  
BATMAN!

IN SUCH AN  
INSTANCE, MY GREATEST  
PRIORITY IS TO  
ELIMINATE THE  
BATMAN-- A COMMAND  
THE MASTER'S  
DAUGHTER DISAGREES  
WITH, BY THE WAY!

HOWEVER, I AM  
NOT TALIA'S  
CREATURE-- BUT  
HER FATHER'S!  
THUS--



-- RĀ'S AL GHŪL'S  
FOE--



-- DIES!



ALTHOUGH JERKED UPRIGHT BY A GIANT  
HAND, MALONE STANDS, AND SHOUTS--

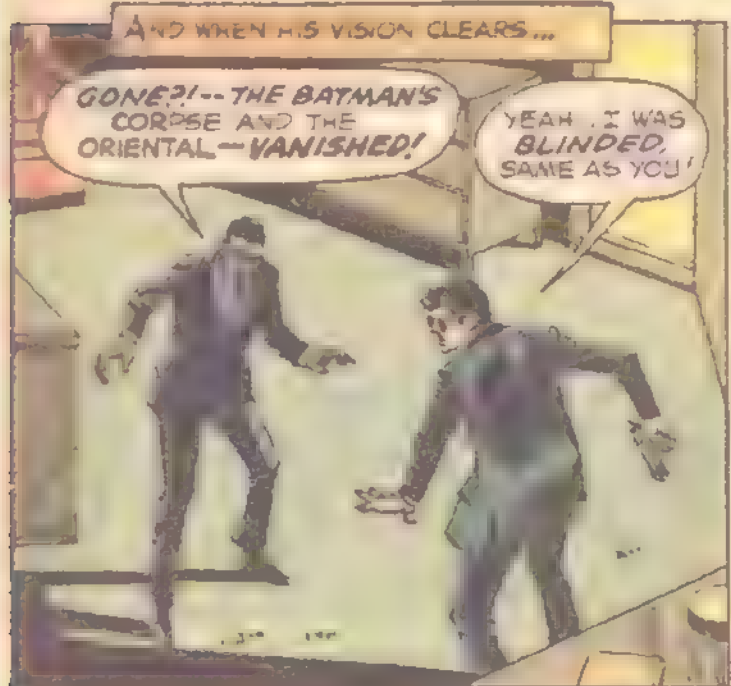
YA DIRTY...  
MURDERIN' SWINE!  
I'LL PUT YA ON  
A SLAB  
PERSONALLY!







AT THAT SAME INSTANT, THE SLUG DETECTOR'S BEAM HITS DETECTOR BLANKS EYES--



AND WHEN HIS VISION CLEARS...

YEAH, I WAS BLINDED, SAME AS YOU!



I... I'M NOT SURE I SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED!



NOW, MOVE!

ALL RIGHT!

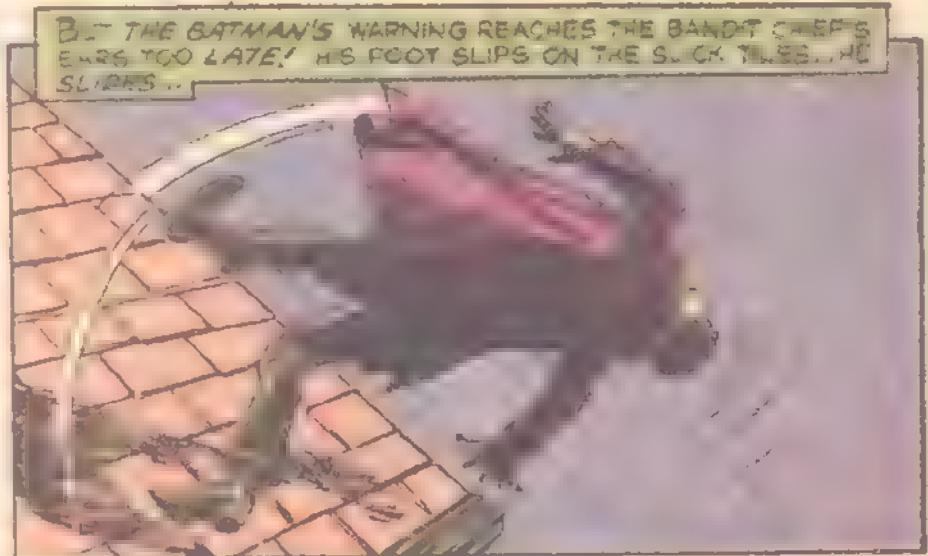
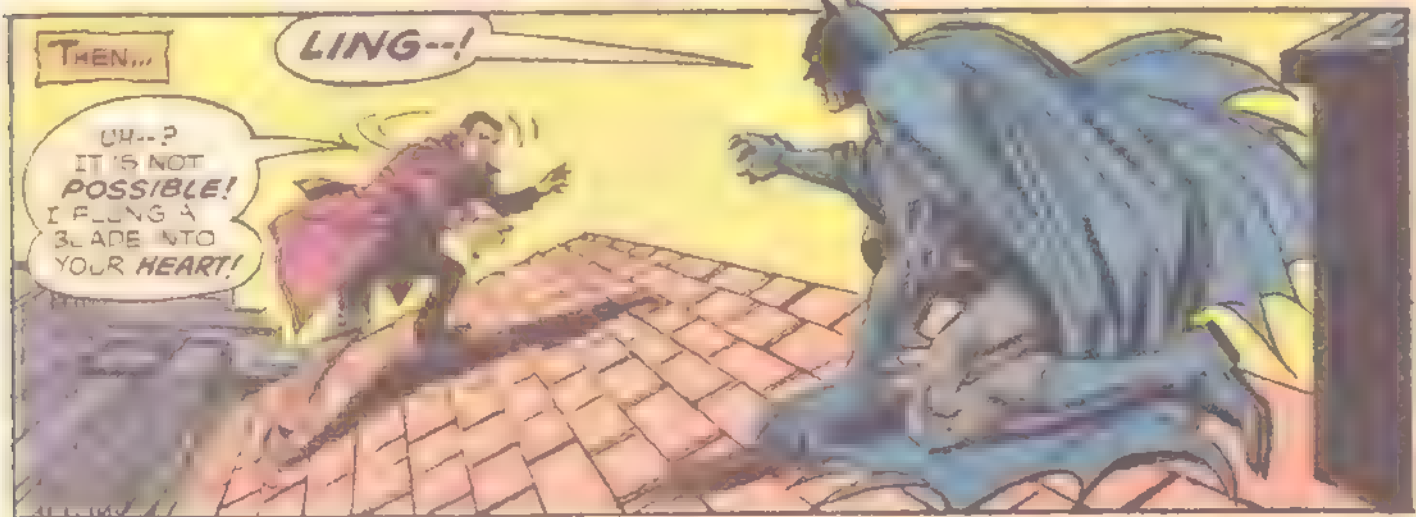
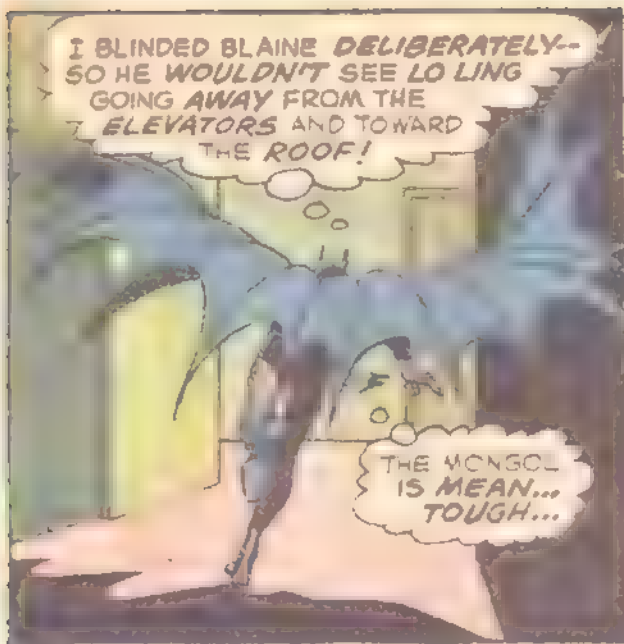


TIME TO RETIRE MATCHES MALONE-- TROUGH NOT AS PERMANENTLY AS THE REAL MALONE WAS RETIRED BY HIS OWN BULLET--



--THE SLUG THAT RICOCHETED IN THE CAFE AND CAUGHT HIM IN THE HEART!

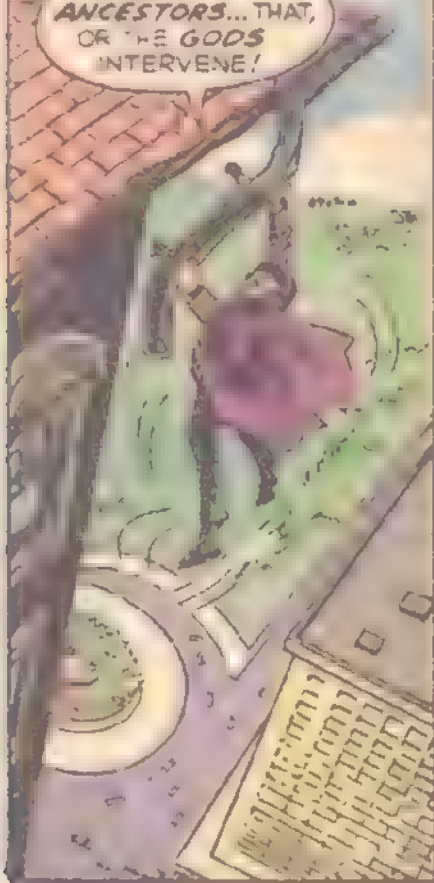






WITH A SMALL DULL  
CREAK, THE GUTTER  
PULLS LOOSE FROM  
ITS MOORINGS...

I GO TO MY  
ANCESTORS... THAT,  
OR THE GODS  
INTERVENE!



ABRUPTLY THE BATMAN  
TURNS AND STRIDES  
QUICKLY AWAY--!



A MOMENT TWO... AND THE  
METAL TEARS COMPLETELY  
FREE... LEAVING THE MORTAL  
FLAILING HELPLESSLY IN  
EMPTY AIR-- SIX HUNDRED  
FEET FROM THE PAVEMENT



HE PLUMMETS-- INTO  
A PAIR OF CABLE-STONG  
ARMS REACHING FROM  
A WINDOW DIRECTLY  
BENEATH!



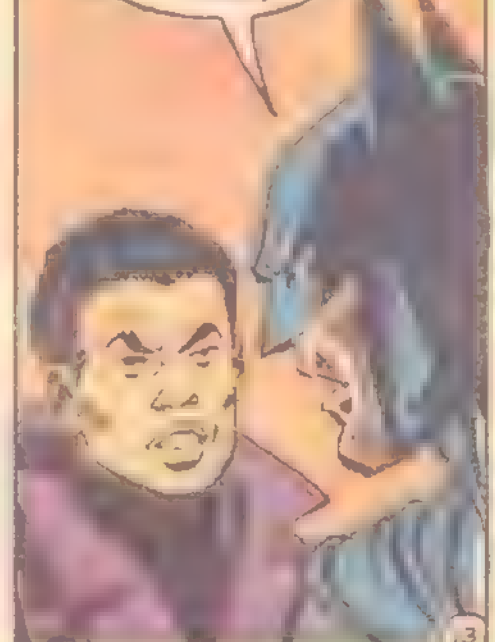
SORRY FOR THE SCARE,  
LING! I SAW I COULDN'T  
REACH YOU FROM THE  
ROOF, I THOUGHT I  
MIGHT MANAGE IT  
FROM HERE!



YOUR RESCUE  
EMBARRASSES  
ME, GHOST-BAT!  
FOR IT OBLIGATES  
ME TO YOU-- EVEN  
AS I AM OBLIGATED  
TO RAS AL GHUL!

I'M CALLING THAT OBLIGATION,  
LO LING! I'M CHARGING  
YOU WITH THE TASK OF  
HELPING SMASH RAS  
AND HIS DEMONS!

YOU, DOCTOR BLAINE  
AND MATCHES MALONE  
ARE TO MEET ME A  
WEEK HENCE-- I'LL  
SAY WHERE  
LATER!

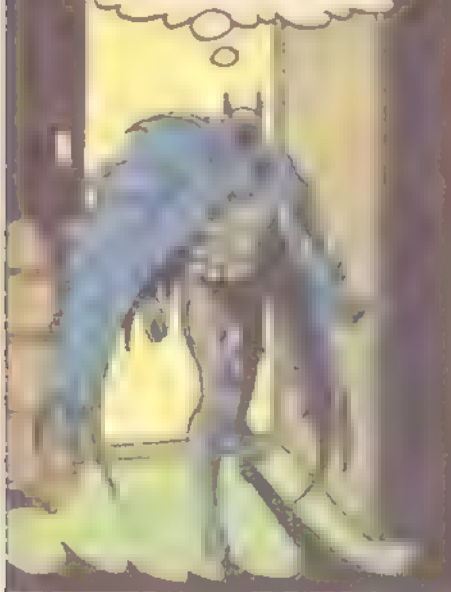




ALONE THE BATMAN  
FIGHTS THE ENEMY  
AND CHANGES

I'VE BEGUN IT--THE WAR  
WITH RAS AL GHUL!--  
THE WAR ONLY ONE  
OF US CAN SURVIVE!

ON HIS SIDE, DOZENS  
OF TRAINED SOLDIERS--  
ASSASSINS--



--AND ON MINE, A  
RELUCTANT SCIENTIST,  
A SUPERSTITIOUS  
BANDIT, AND A DEAD  
GANGSTER!

THOSE...AND THIS  
DUMMY I RIGGED TO  
DROP INTO A TRAP-  
DOOR-- A **STAND-IN**  
BATMAN!



--A MANNEQUIN WITH A  
RADIO RECEIVER IN ITS HEAD  
TUNED TO RECEIVE SUB-  
VOCALIZATIONS I TRANSMIT  
FROM A TINY THROAT-MIKE!

A FEW GIMMICKS  
AND THREE  
MEN AGAINST  
THE ARMY...  
THE **GENIUS**...  
OF RA'S!

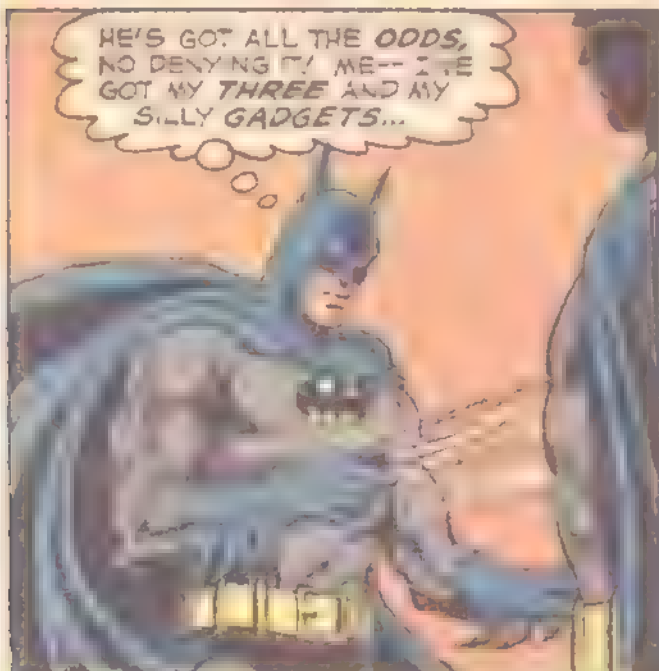


IF I WERE A GAMBLER,  
I'D BET ON THE  
**ENEMY!**

**KKK!**



HE'S GOT ALL THE ODDS,  
NO DENYING IT! ME--I'VE  
GOT MY **THREE** AND MY  
SILLY GADGETS...



--AND ONE THING MORE!  
**DETERMINATION**... A  
CONVICT ON THAT I'M  
FIGHTING FOR **RIGHT!**



YOU HAVE JUST WITNESSED THE **BEGINNING**... SOON YOU ARE DESTINED TO WITNESS--The **End**



**DC**  
BATMAN

**ALL NEW STORIES**

**NOW  
ONLY  
20¢**

# BATMAN

NO. 243  
AUG.  
30430

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YOU ARE  
WATCHING A  
FIGHT TO THE  
**DEATH...**  
THAT  
THE BATMAN  
DOESN'T  
DARE  
WIN!



TWO MEN-- EACH HIGHLY TRAINED  
IN THE FIGHTING ARTS, EACH  
SUPERBLY CONDITIONED-- FACE  
EACH OTHER IN WHAT PROMISES  
TO BE A DUEL TO THE DEATH!

AND THIS IS ONLY THE  
BEGINNING OF AN ADVENTURE  
TO SHOCK...TO STUN--TO  
PRESENT INSURMOUNTABLE  
CHALLENGES TO THE DREAD...

# BATMAN

STORY: DENNY O'NEIL  
PENCILS: NEAL ADAMS  
INKS: DICK GIORDANO  
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

## "THE LAZARUS PIT!"

THERE IS ONLY ONE  
WAY TO SETTLE OUR  
DIFFERENCES, FRIEND  
BATMAN--

--TO SETTLE THEM  
WITH HONOR--  
MORTAL  
COMBAT!

IF YOU  
INSIST,  
LING--

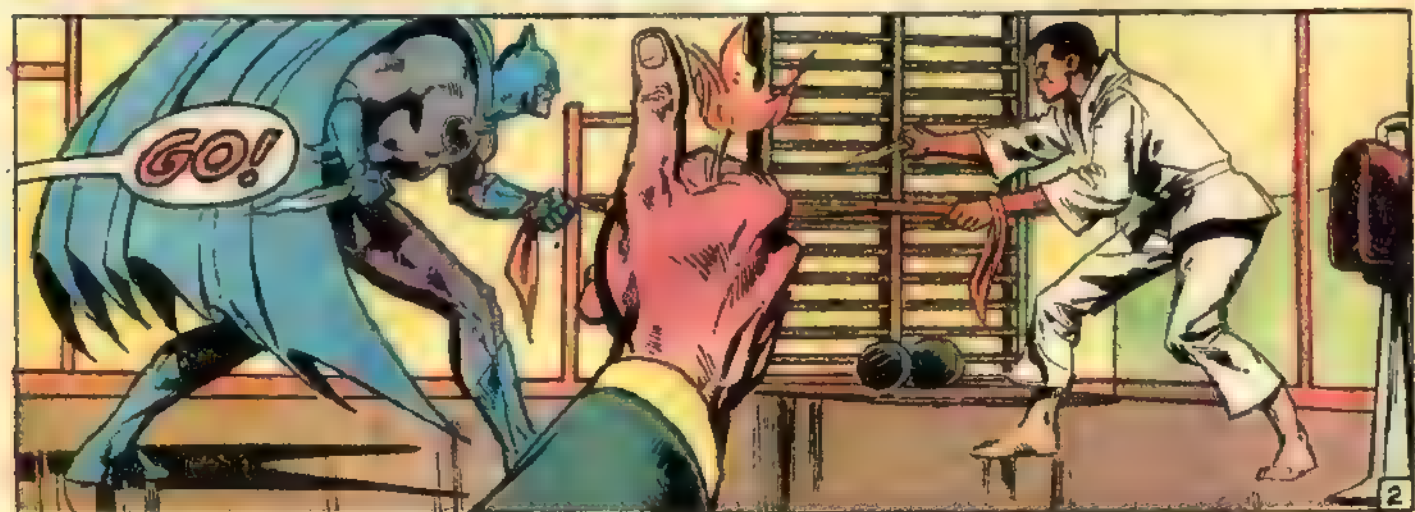
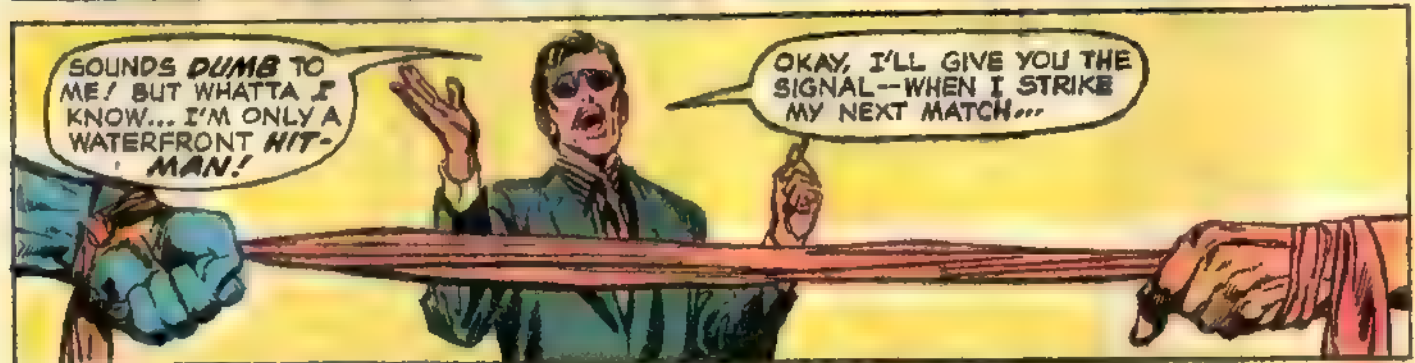
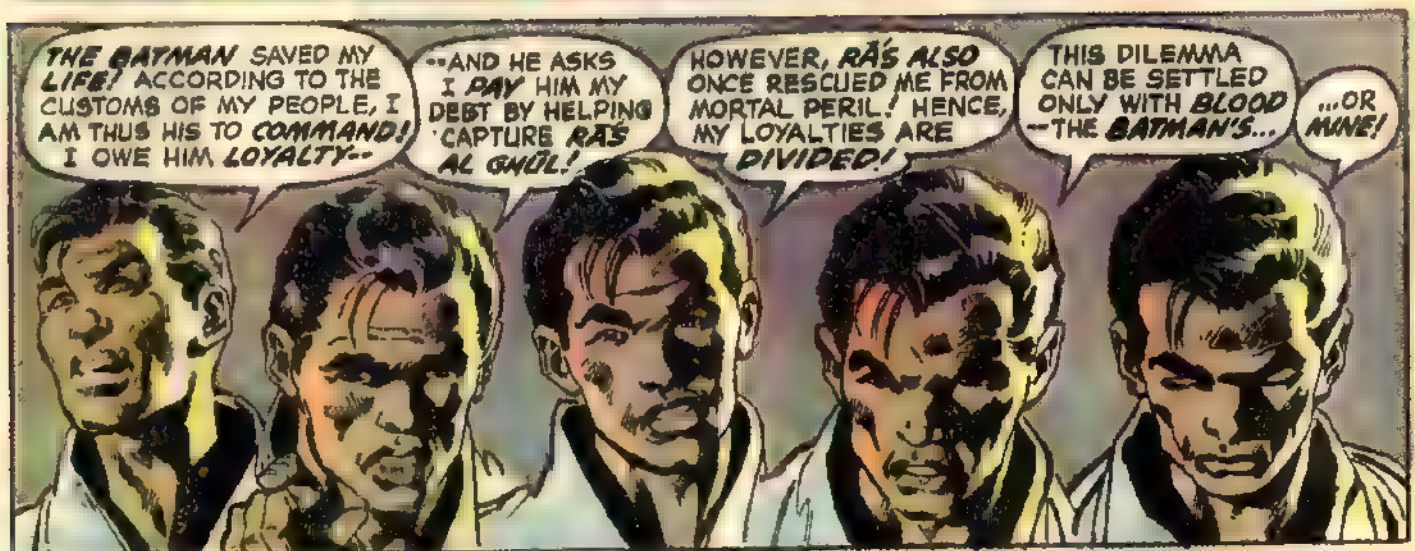


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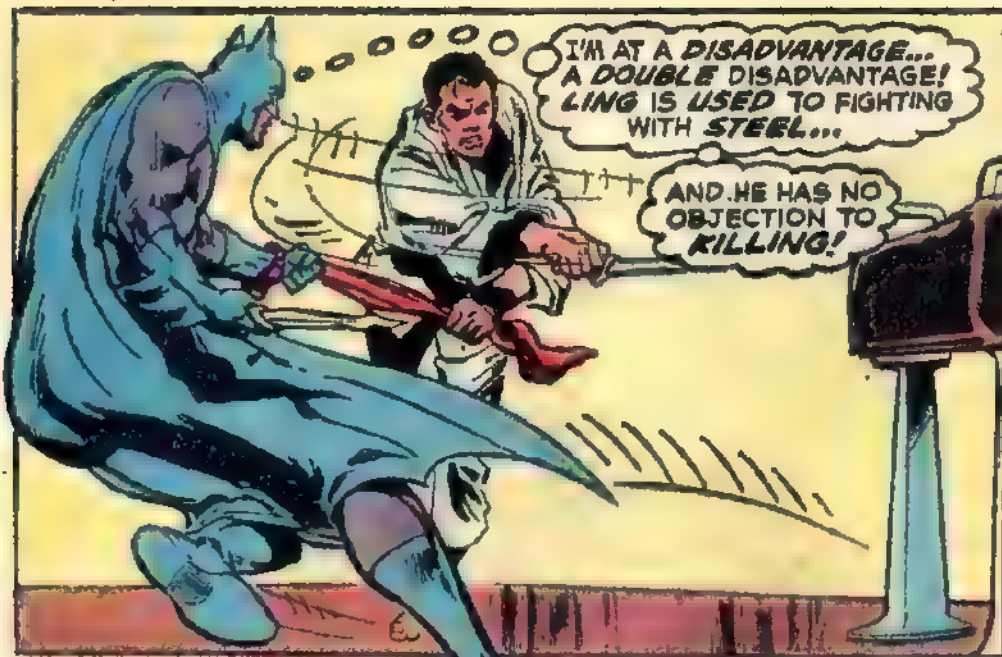
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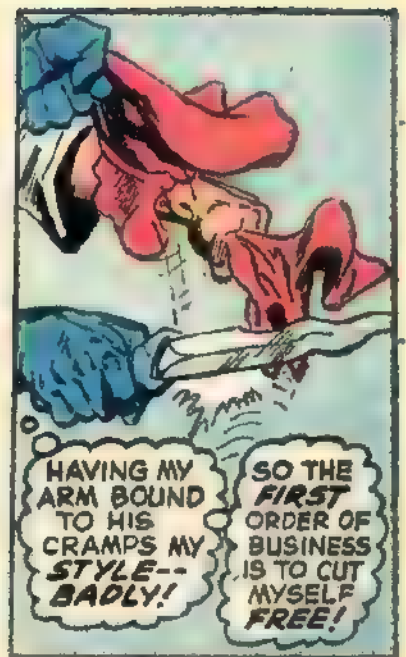






I'M AT A *DISADVANTAGE*...  
A *DOUBLE DISADVANTAGE!*  
LING IS USED TO FIGHTING  
WITH *STEEL*...

AND HE HAS NO  
OBJECTION TO  
*KILLING!*



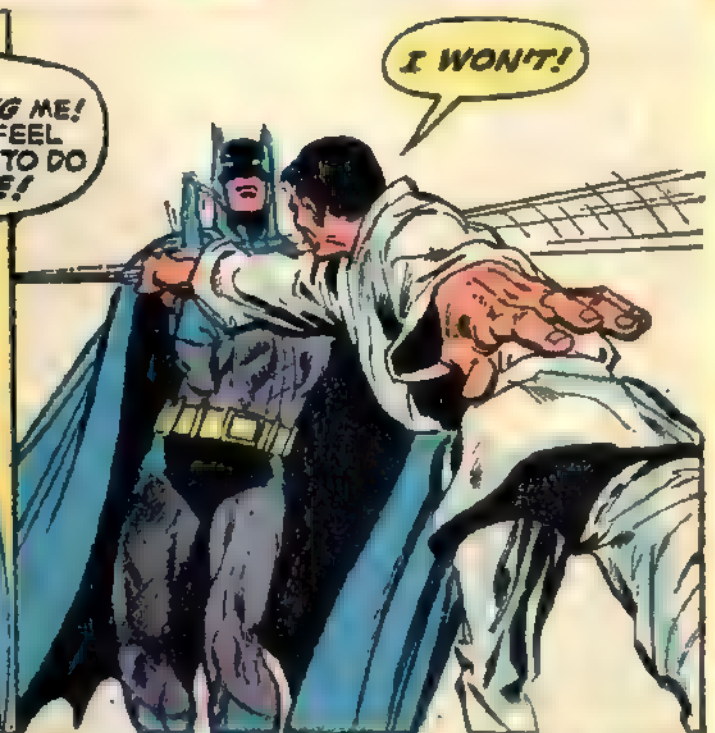
HAVING MY  
ARM BOUND  
TO HIS  
CRAMPS MY  
*STYLE--*  
*BADLY!*

SO THE  
*FIRST*  
ORDER OF  
BUSINESS  
IS TO CUT  
MYSELF  
*FREE!*

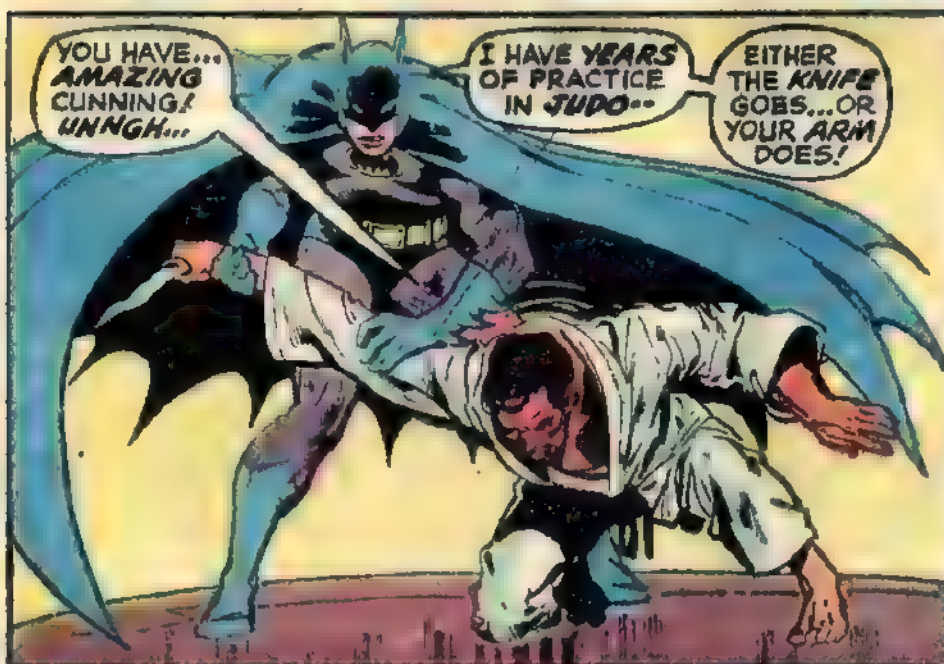


YOU  
ABANDON  
YOUR  
*BLADE--?*

IT WAS...  
*DISTRACTING ME!*  
BUT DON'T FEEL  
OBLIGATED TO DO  
*LIKEWISE!*



I WON'T!



YOU HAVE...  
*AMAZING*  
CUNNING!  
*UNNGH...*

I HAVE YEARS  
OF PRACTICE  
IN *JUDO*--

EITHER  
THE *KNIFE*  
GOBS...OR  
YOUR ARM  
DOES!



SENSIBLE  
CHOICE, LING!





A GOOD HARD  
THUMP AGAINST THE  
WALL WILL MAKE HIM  
GROGGY--



--WHERE I CAN  
FINISH OUR LITTLE  
EXERCISE WITH NO  
MORE DAMAGE THAN  
A COUPLE OF  
BRUISES!

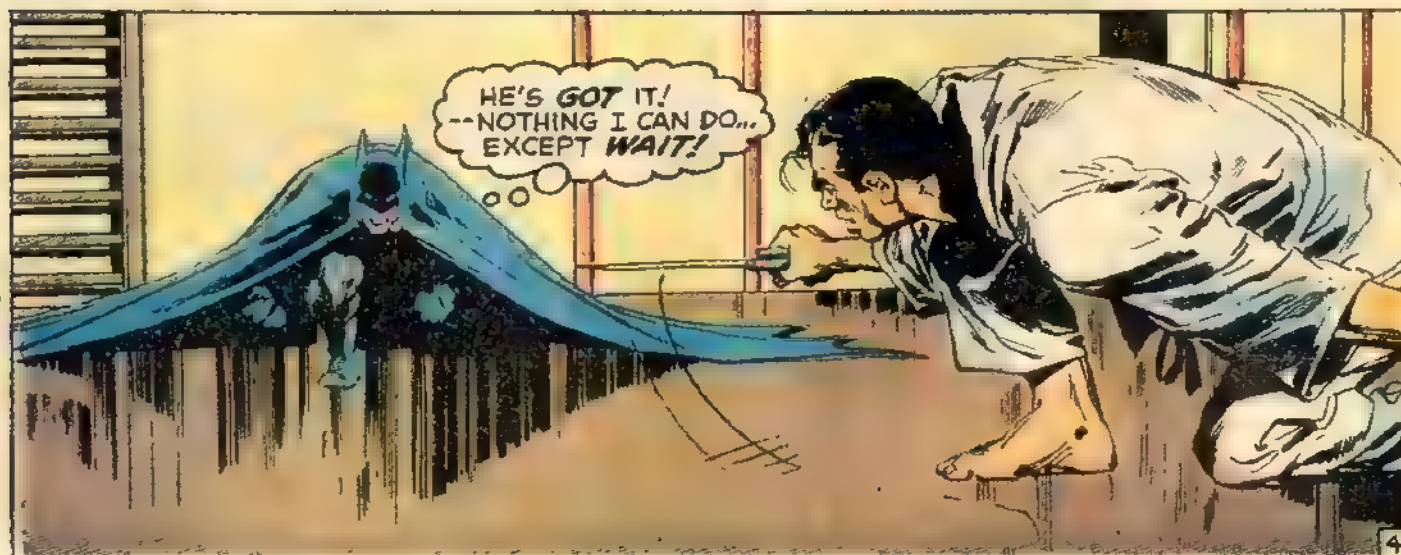


UH-OH! THAT  
THUMP WASN'T  
HARD ENOUGH--  
'OOFFFFF!



...NOW I'M  
THE ONE WHO'S  
GROGGY!

LING IS RUNNING  
TRUE TO FORM...  
TRYING FOR HIS  
WEAPON!



HE'S GOT IT!  
--NOTHING I CAN DO...  
EXCEPT WAIT!



FOR THESE TWO, THERE IS NO TIME, NO PLACE... ONLY BREATH EXPLODING FROM CLENCHED TEETH...

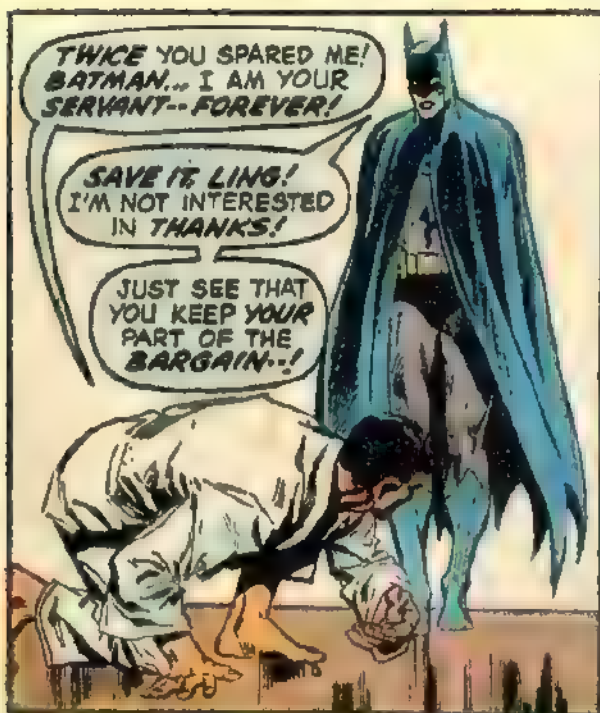


...THE AWFUL PAIN OF MUSCLE STRAINED TO THE VERY *LIMIT*, AND THE STENCH OF THE *GRIMMEST* OF STRUGGLES...



IT HAS TAKEN EXACTLY *FOUR SECONDS*...AND A *LIFETIME*!

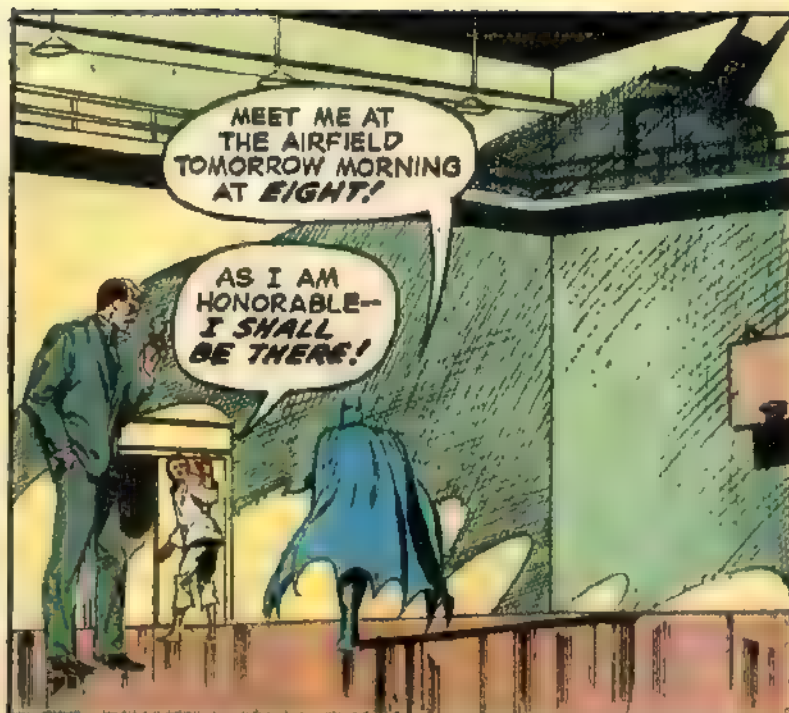




**TWICE YOU SPARED ME!  
BATMAN... I AM YOUR  
SERVANT-- FOREVER!**

**SAVE IT LING!  
I'M NOT INTERESTED  
IN THANKS!**

**JUST SEE THAT  
YOU KEEP YOUR  
PART OF THE  
BARGAIN--!**



**MEET ME AT  
THE AIRFIELD  
TOMORROW MORNING  
AT EIGHT!**

**AS I AM  
HONORABLE--  
I SHALL  
BE THERE!**



**I WISH YOU HADN'T  
TAKEN SO LONG TO  
CLOBBER HIM! I WAS  
WORRIED FOR A  
WHILE!**

**MAKES A PAIR  
OF US, CHUM!**

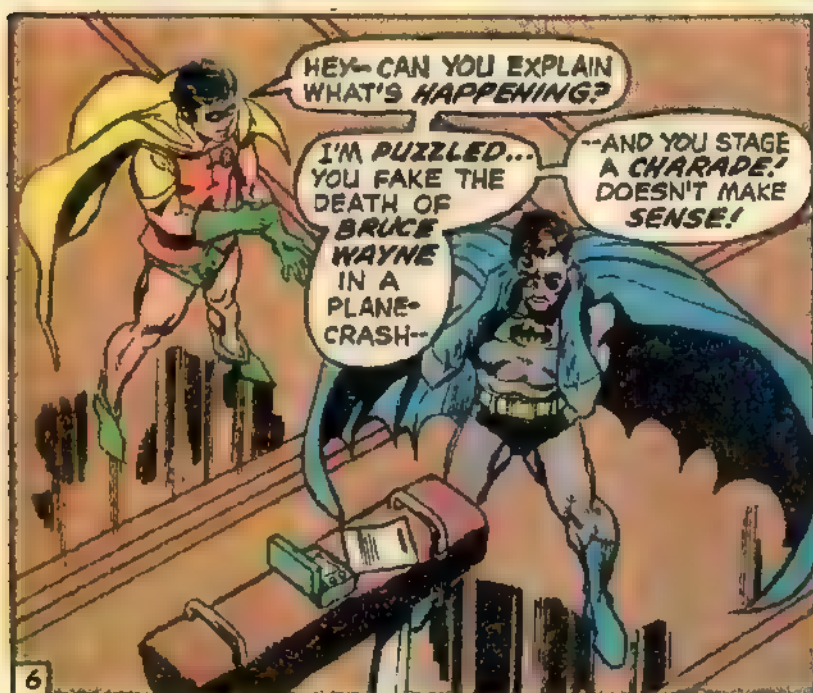
**BETTER PEEL YOUR-  
SELF OUT OF THE  
DISGUISE!**



**SHUCKS... I WAS  
ENJOYING BEING  
AS BIG AS YOU!**

**THIS INFLATABLE  
BODY STOCKING YOU  
INVENTED IS FAR OUT!**

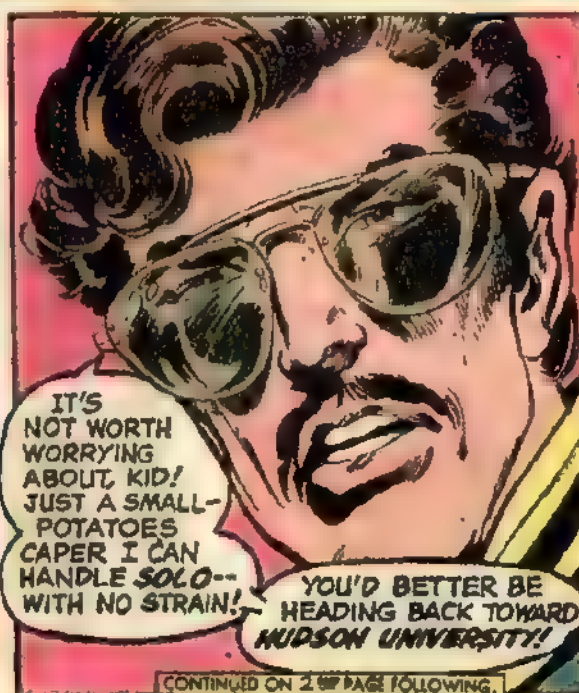
**I HATE TO SPOIL  
YOUR FUN, ROBIN--  
BUT IT'S MY TURN  
TO ASSUME MATCHES  
MALONE'S IDENTITY!**



**HEY-- CAN YOU EXPLAIN  
WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

**I'M PUZZLED...  
YOU FAKE THE  
DEATH OF  
BRUCE  
WAYNE  
IN A PLANE-  
CRASH--**

**--AND YOU STAGE  
A CHARADE!  
DOESN'T MAKE  
SENSE!**



**IT'S  
NOT WORTH  
WORRYING  
ABOUT, KID!  
JUST A SMALL-  
POTATOES  
CAPER I CAN  
HANDLE SOLO--  
WITH NO STRAIN!**

**YOU'D BETTER BE  
HEADING BACK TOWARD  
HUDSON UNIVERSITY!**

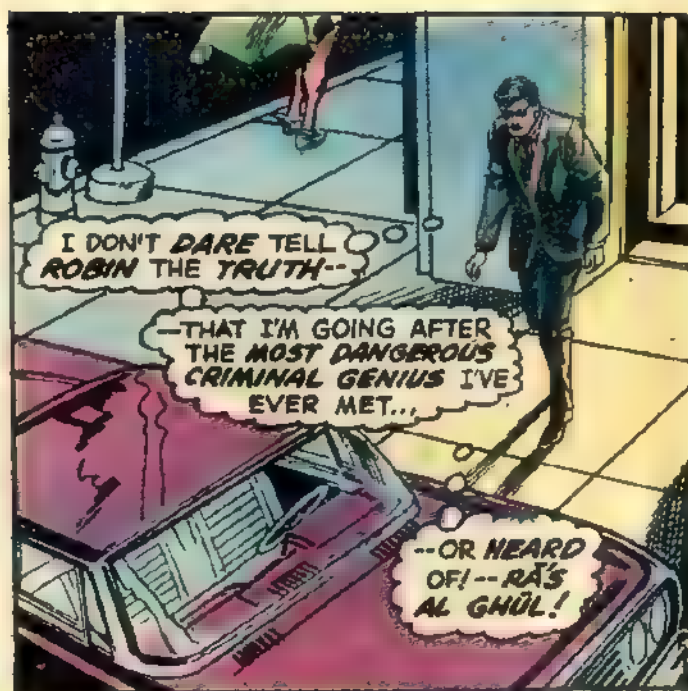
CONTINUED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING.





THANKS FOR THE PLAY-ACTING! UNTIL THE END OF THE SEMESTER--SO LONG!

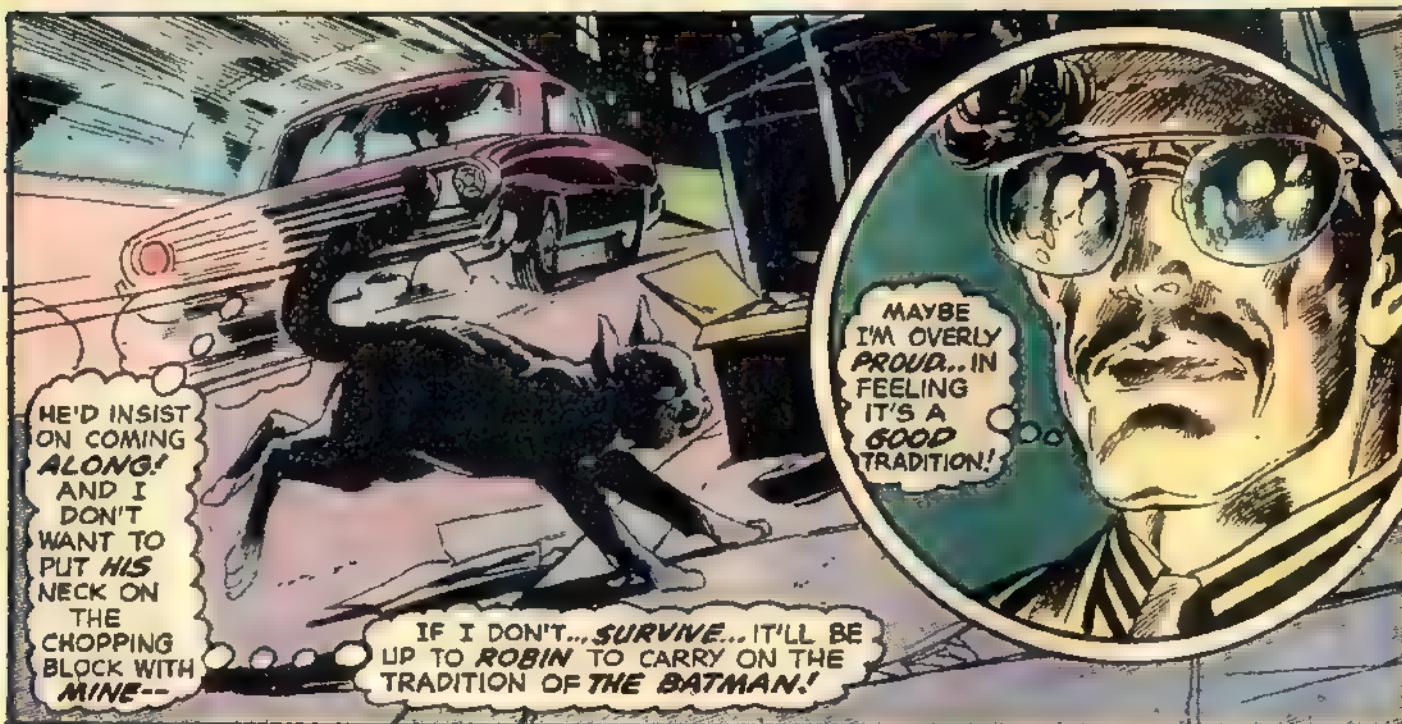
'BYE... AND LUCK!



I DON'T DARE TELL ROBIN THE TRUTH--

--THAT I'M GOING AFTER THE MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINAL GENIUS I'VE EVER MET...

--OR HEARD OF!-- RÄ'S AL GHÜL!



HE'D INSIST ON COMING ALONG! AND I DON'T WANT TO PUT HIS NECK ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK WITH MINE--

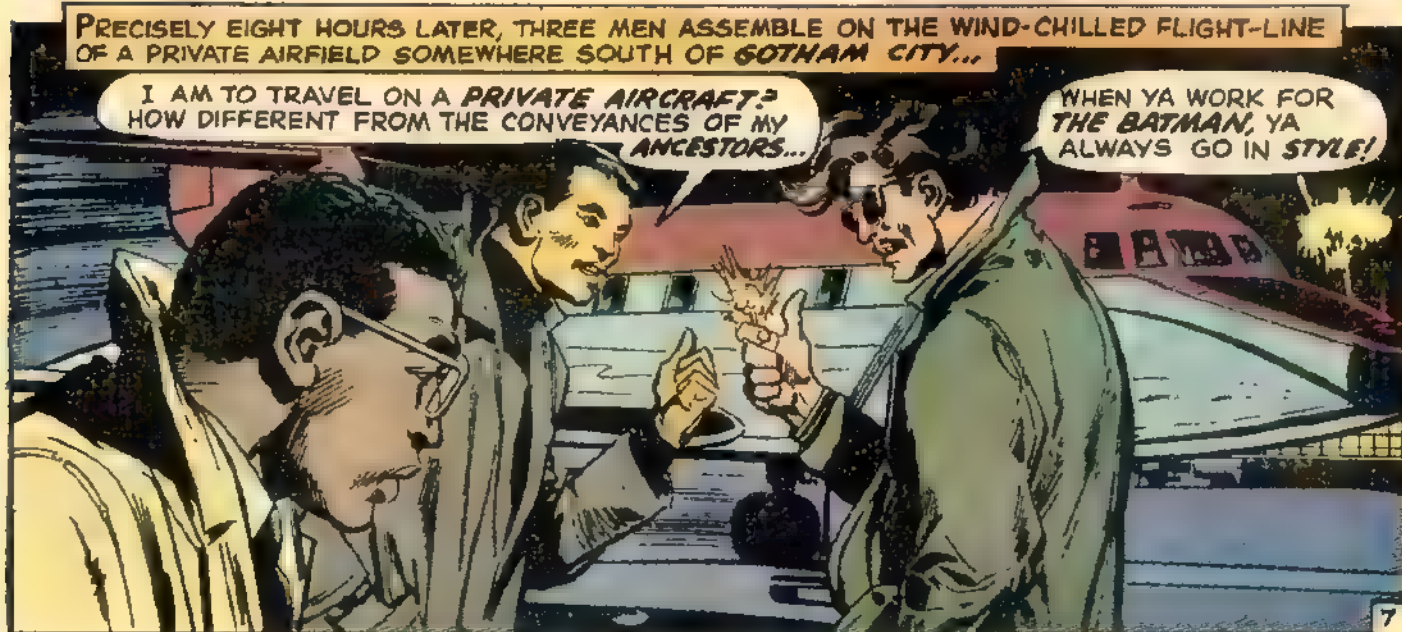
IF I DON'T... SURVIVE... IT'LL BE UP TO ROBIN TO CARRY ON THE TRADITION OF THE BATMAN!

MAYBE I'M OVERLY PROUD... IN FEELING IT'S A GOOD TRADITION!

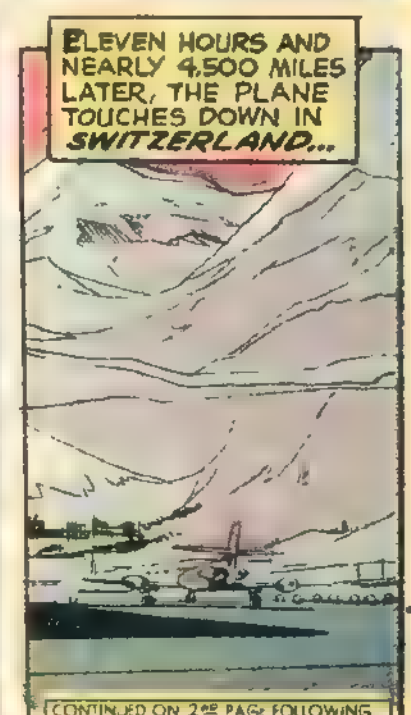
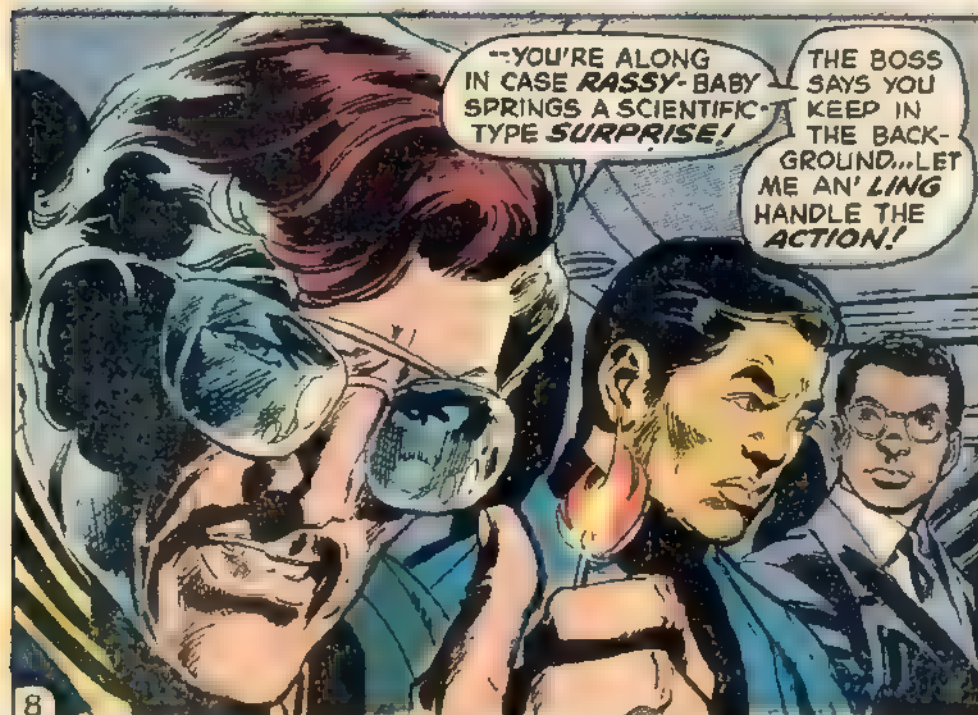
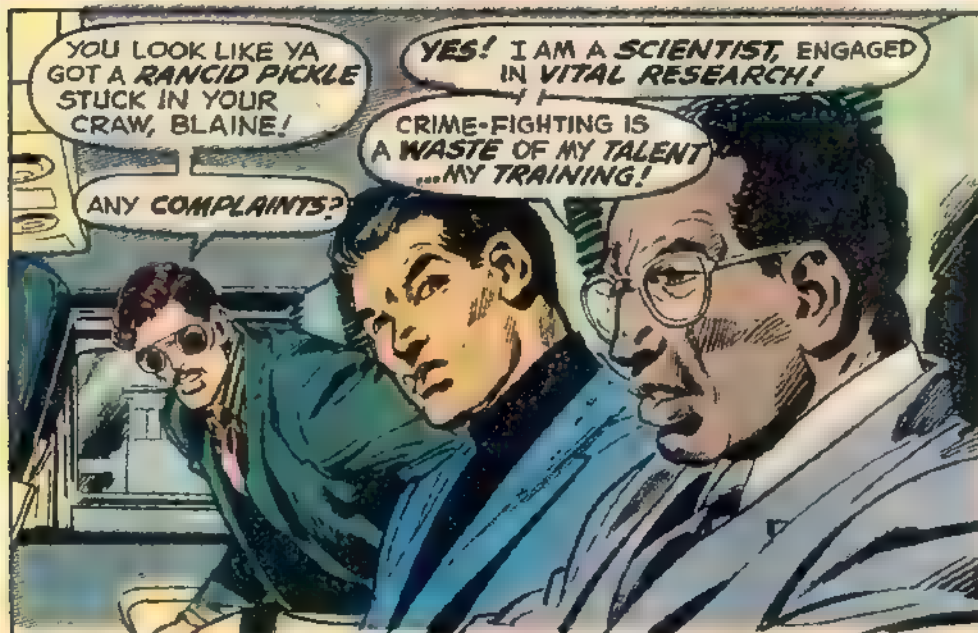
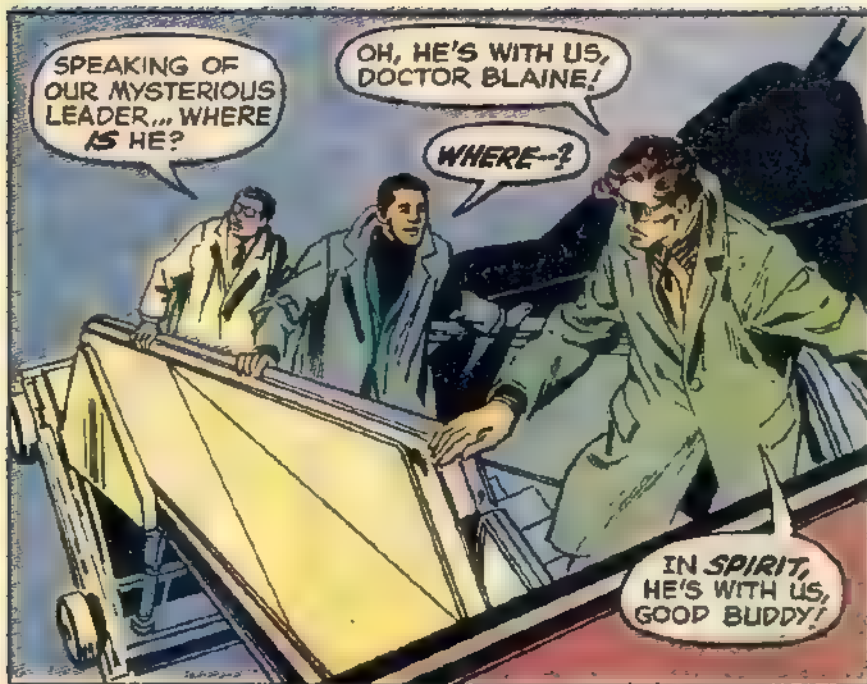
PRECISELY EIGHT HOURS LATER, THREE MEN ASSEMBLE ON THE WIND-CHILLED FLIGHT-LINE OF A PRIVATE AIRFIELD SOMEWHERE SOUTH OF GOTHAM CITY...

I AM TO TRAVEL ON A PRIVATE AIRCRAFT? HOW DIFFERENT FROM THE CONVEYANCES OF MY ANCESTORS...

WHEN YA WORK FOR THE BATMAN, YA ALWAYS GO IN STYLE!









SOON, PASSING THROUGH CUSTOMS...

YOU GUYS CHECK  
IN THE HOTEL! I'M  
GONNA LOOK UP A  
PAL! WE ONCE  
SHARED A CELL!

MEET  
YA FOR  
FATS!

A CHARMING AVENUE!  
I'VE HEARD IT SAID THE  
SWISS ARE THE MOST  
CIVILIZED--

LOOK!-- IN  
THE CROWD!  
IT IS TALIA...  
DAUGHTER  
OF THE HEAD  
DEMON,  
RAS!

I SHALL  
PLEASE THE  
BATMAN BY  
CAPTURING  
HER!

WAIT!

LING!-- ALLY OF  
MY FATHER!

NO LONGER!  
I SERVE HIS  
ENEMY!

...THE  
BATM--NNGH!

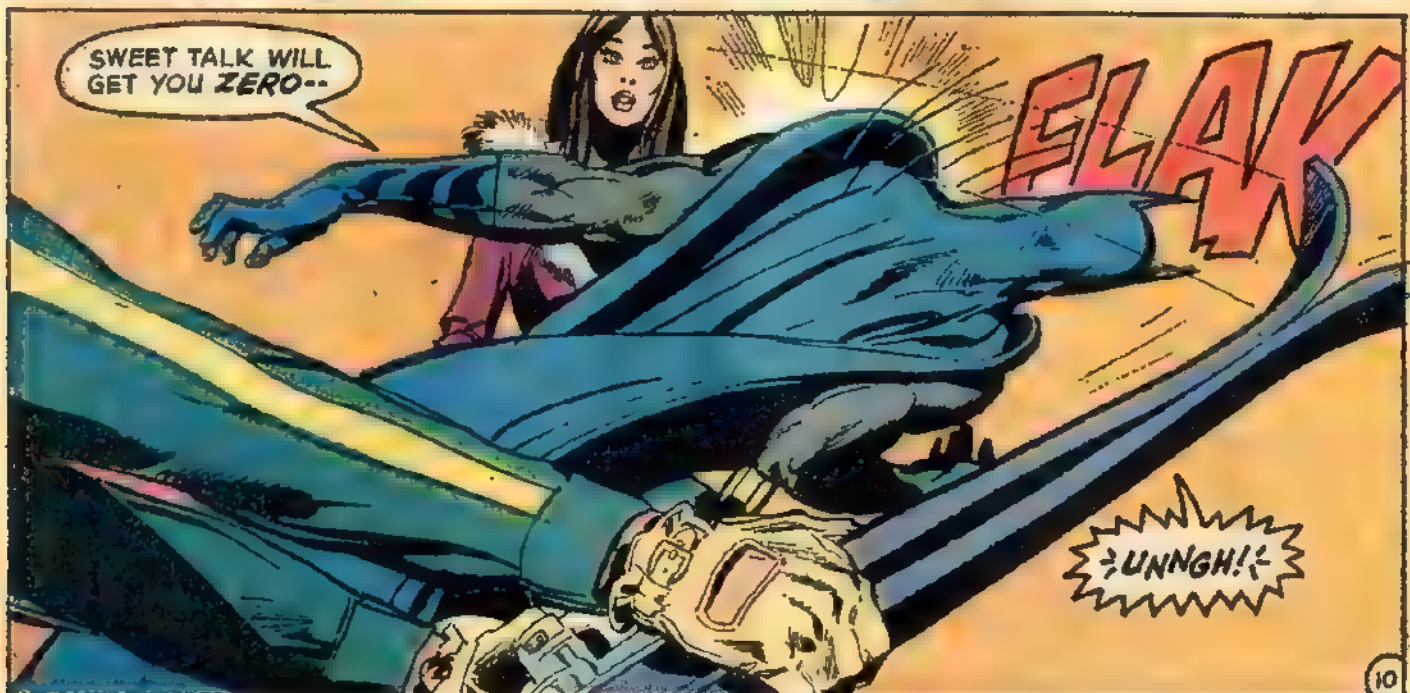
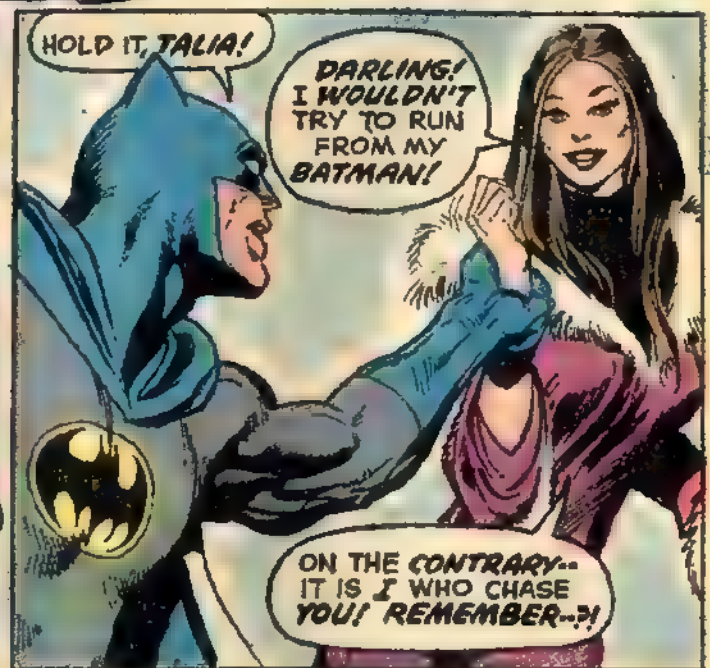
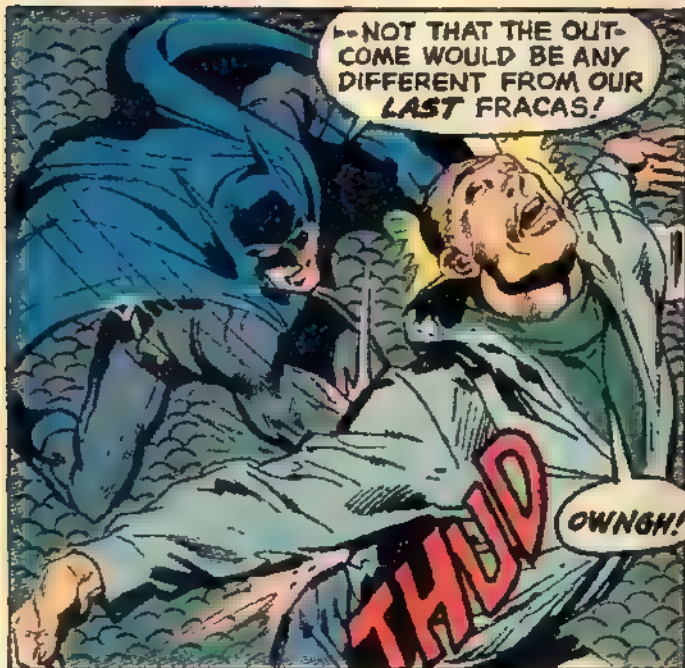
STAND ASIDE,  
FOOLS! MY  
MASTER'S  
CHILD WOULD  
HAVE  
PASSAGE!

YOU'RE  
NOT BEING  
POLITE,  
UBU!

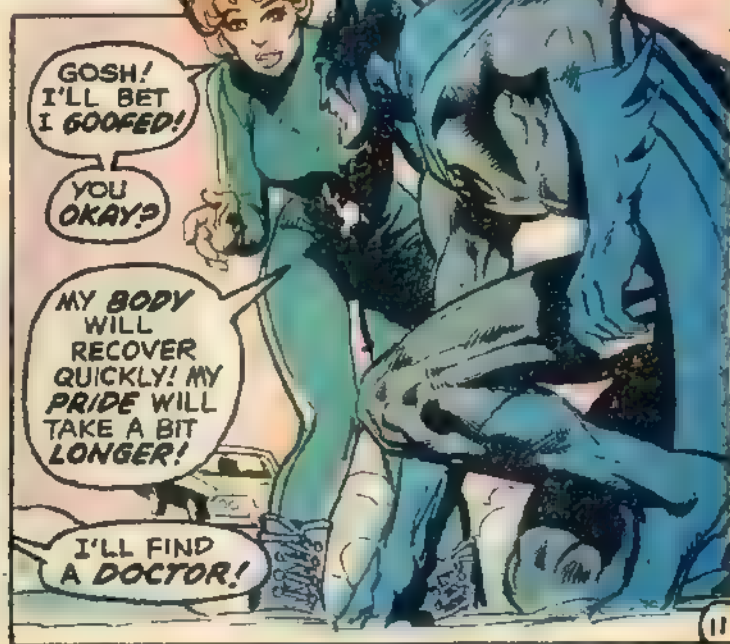
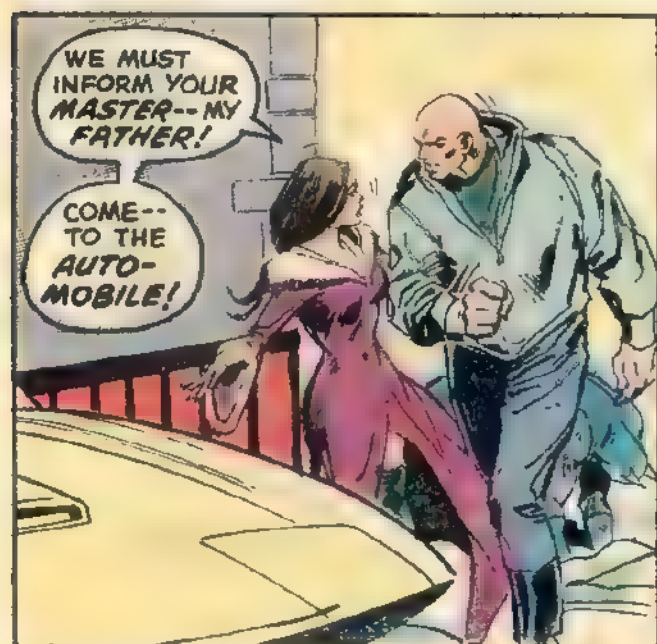




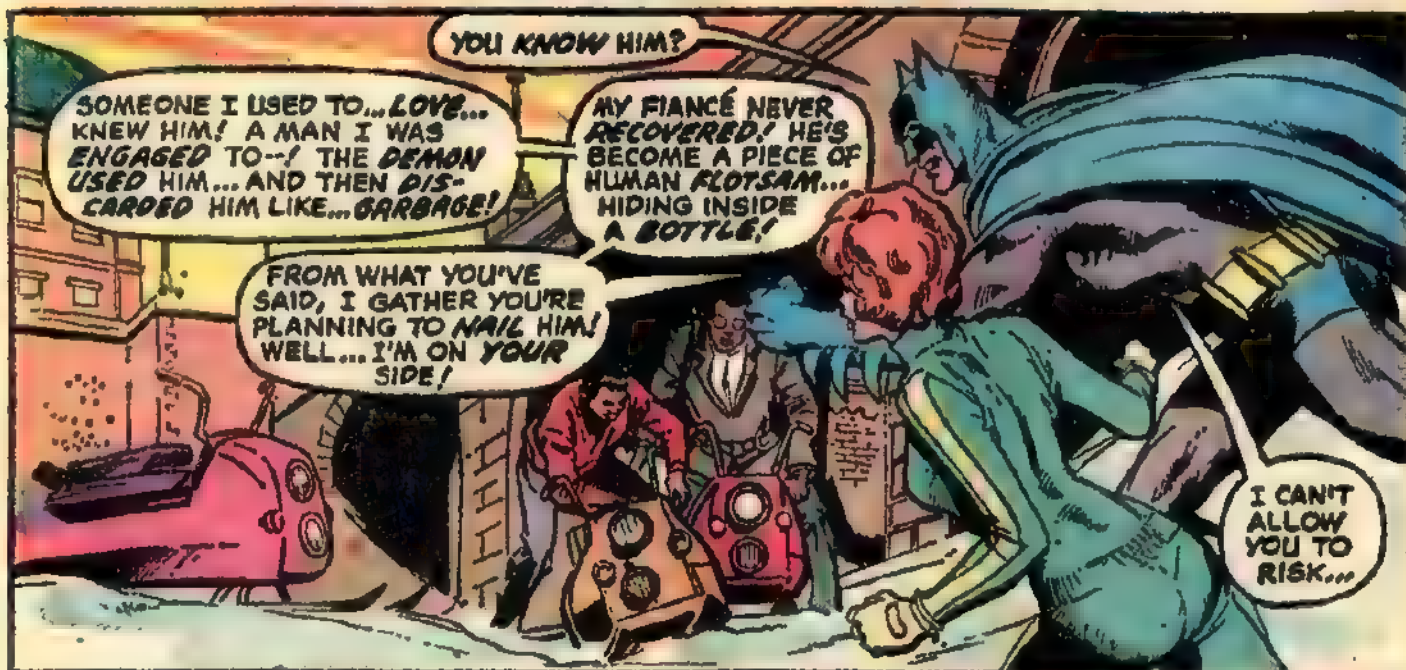
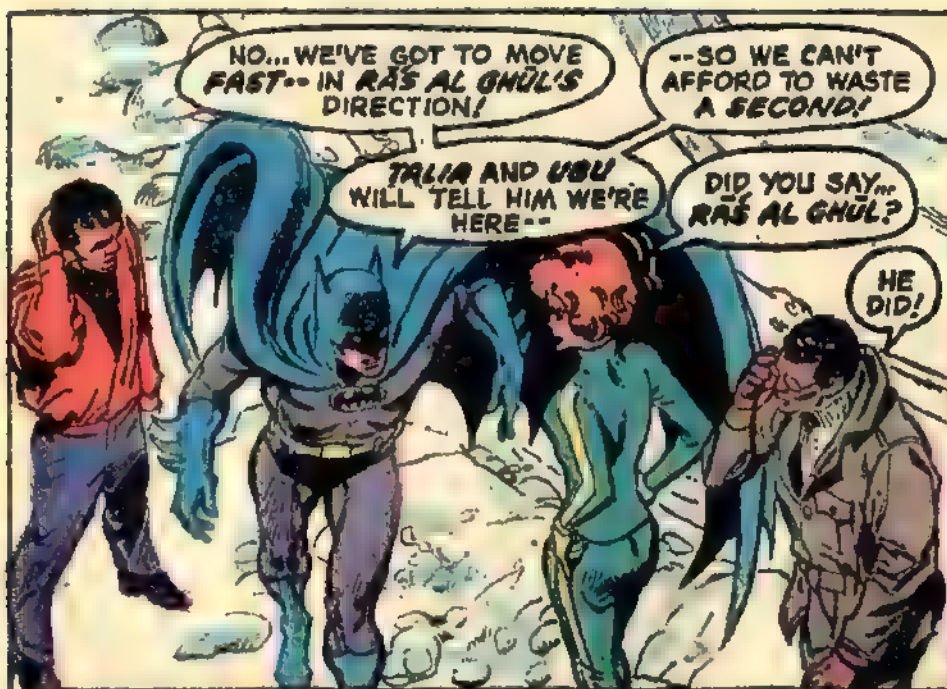
\*NOTE: THE COWLED CRUSADER MET--AND MASTERED--UBU IN BATMAN #232!



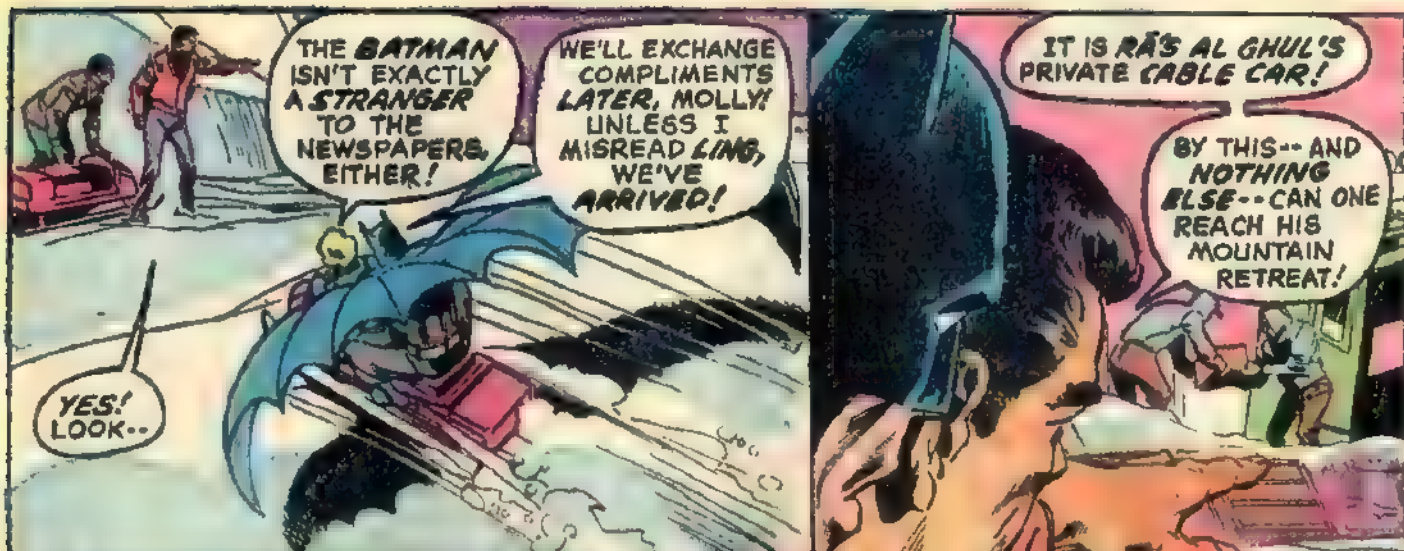












THE BATMAN  
ISN'T EXACTLY  
A STRANGER  
TO THE  
NEWSPAPERS,  
EITHER!

WE'LL EXCHANGE  
COMPLIMENTS  
LATER, MOLLY!  
UNLESS I  
MISREAD LING,  
WE'VE  
ARRIVED!

YES!  
LOOK--

IT IS RÅ'S AL GHUL'S  
PRIVATE CABLE CAR!

BY THIS-- AND  
NOTHING  
ELSE-- CAN ONE  
REACH HIS  
MOUNTAIN  
RETREAT!



WE MUST CONCEIVE  
A SCHEME FOR GETTING  
CONTROL OF THE CAR--

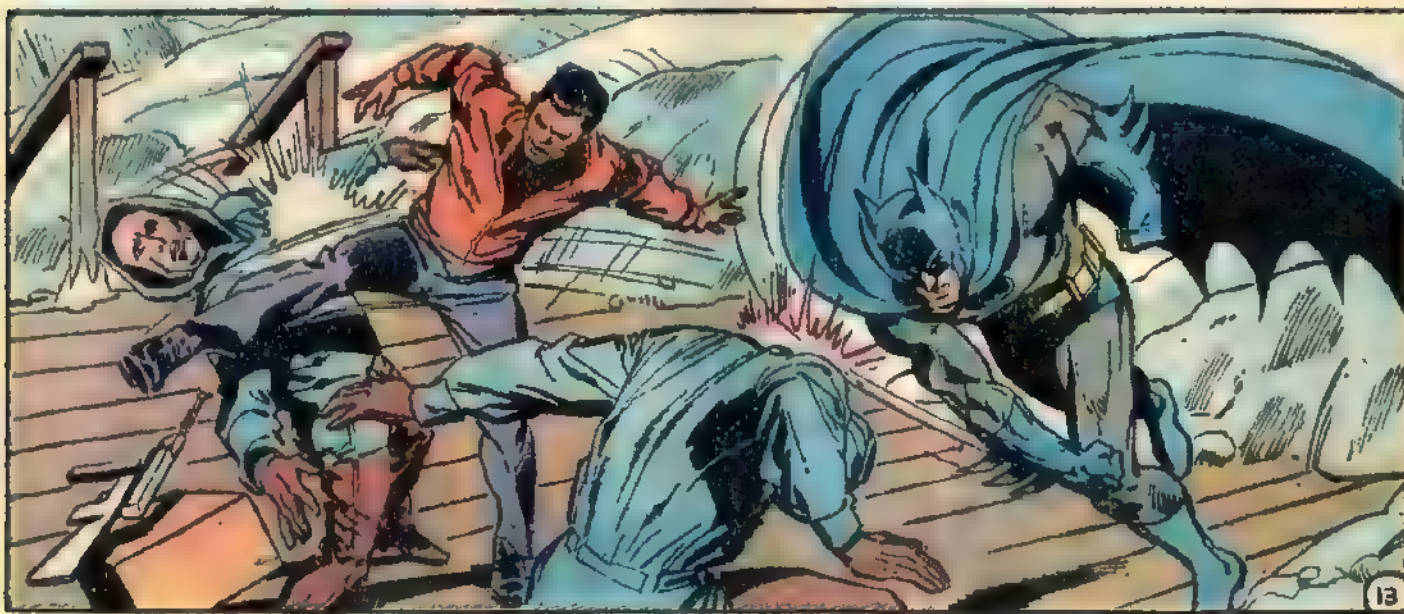
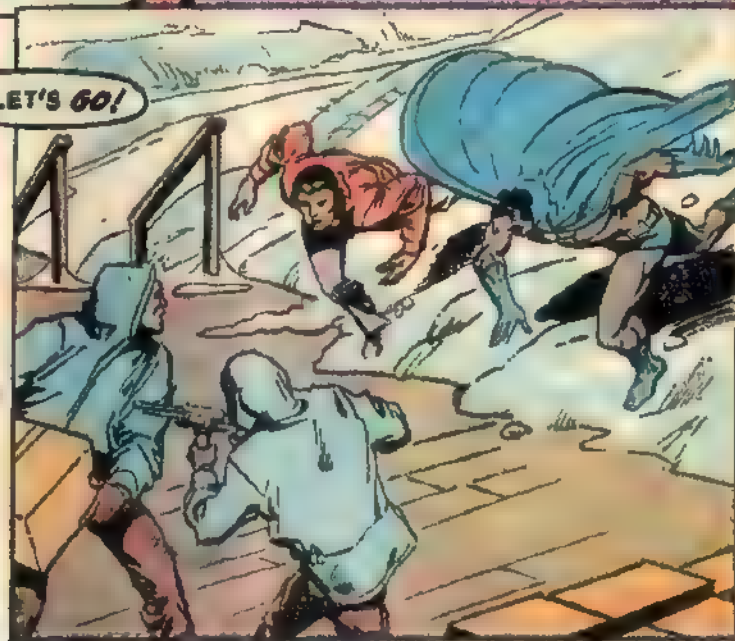
UH-UH... TALIA MAY HAVE  
ALREADY WARNED HER FATHER!

WE'VE GOT TO MAKE  
OUR MOVE NOW!



DIRECT ACTION IS  
CALLED FOR, LING!

--LET'S GO!











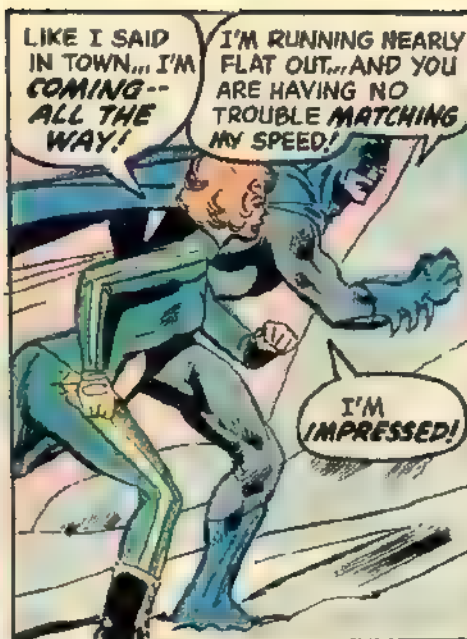
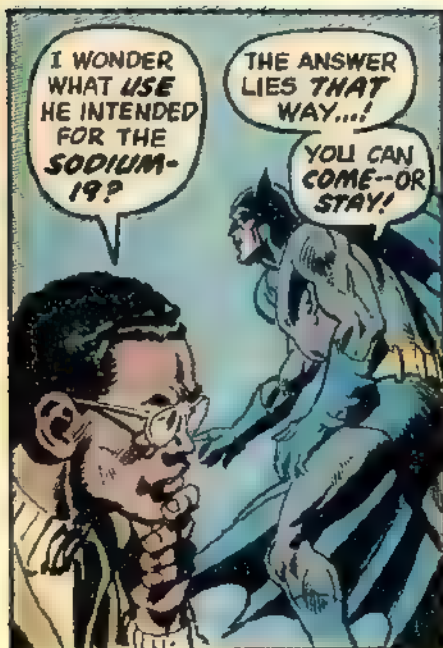




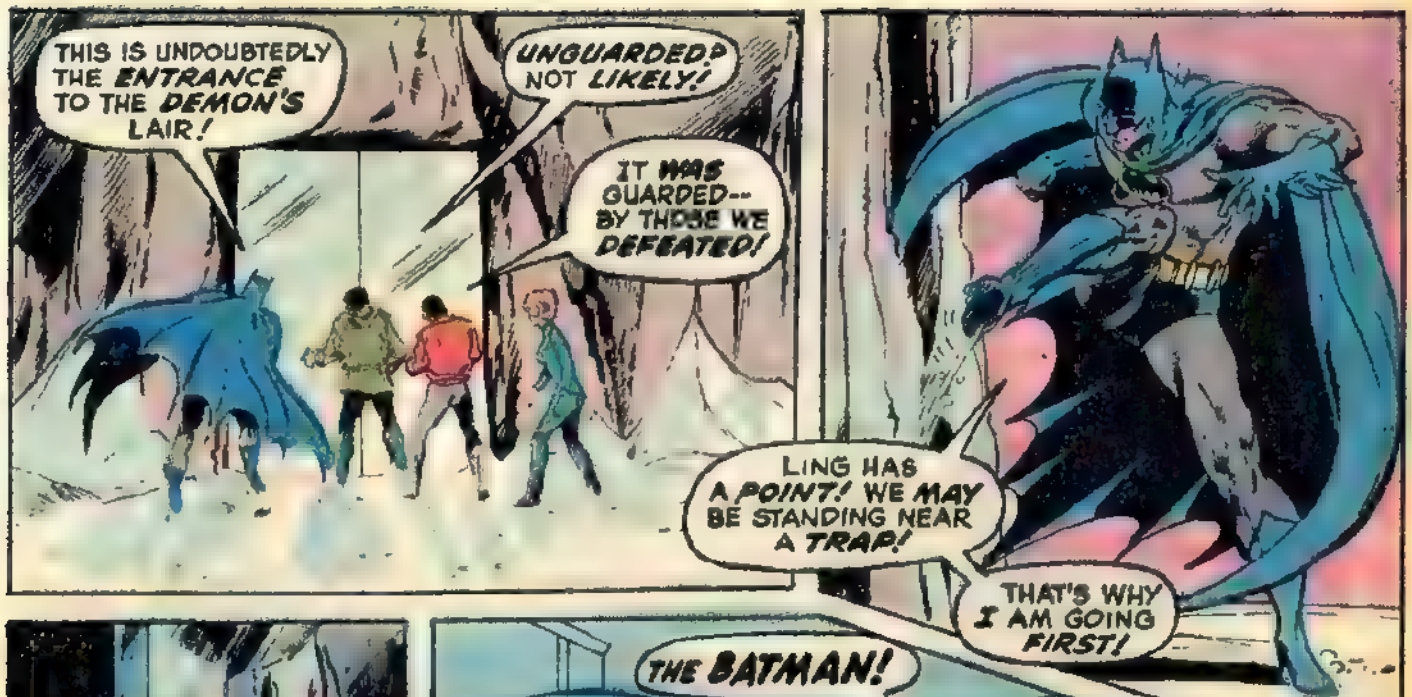












THIS IS UNDOUBTEDLY  
THE **ENTRANCE**  
TO THE **DEMON'S**  
LAIR!

UNGUARDED?  
NOT **LIKELY!**

IT WAS  
GUARDED--  
BY THOSE WE  
DEFEATED!

LING HAS  
A POINT! WE MAY  
BE STANDING NEAR  
A **TRAP!**

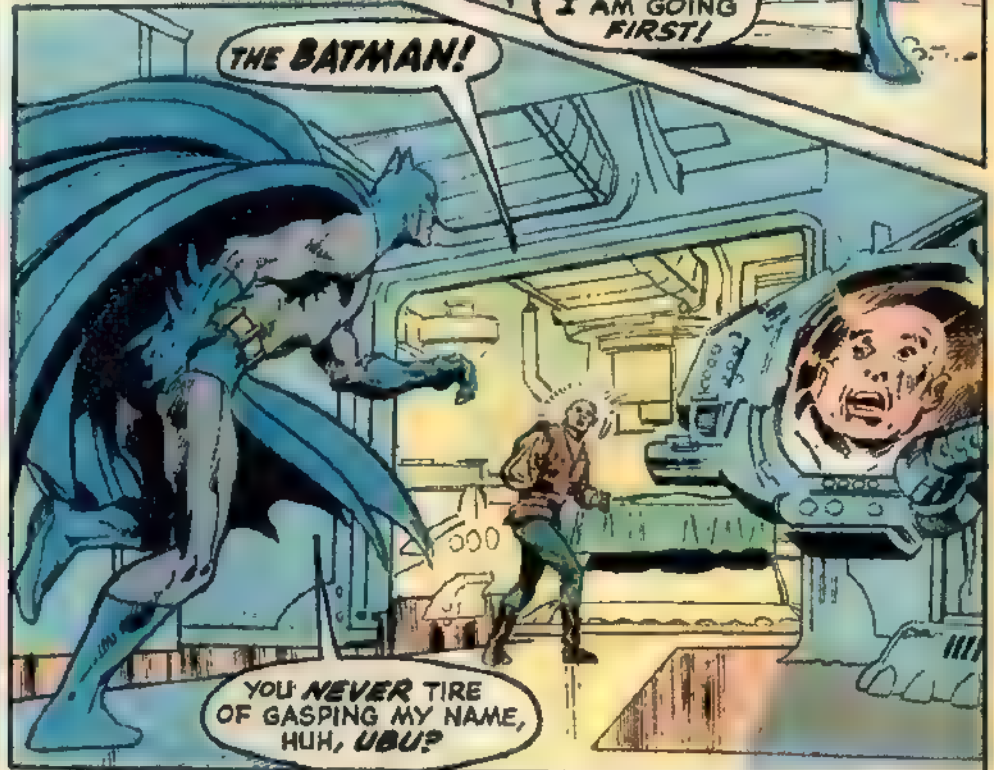
THAT'S WHY  
I AM GOING  
**FIRST!**



--AND **ALONE!**

**KRK**

BE **CAREFUL!**



**THE BATMAN!**

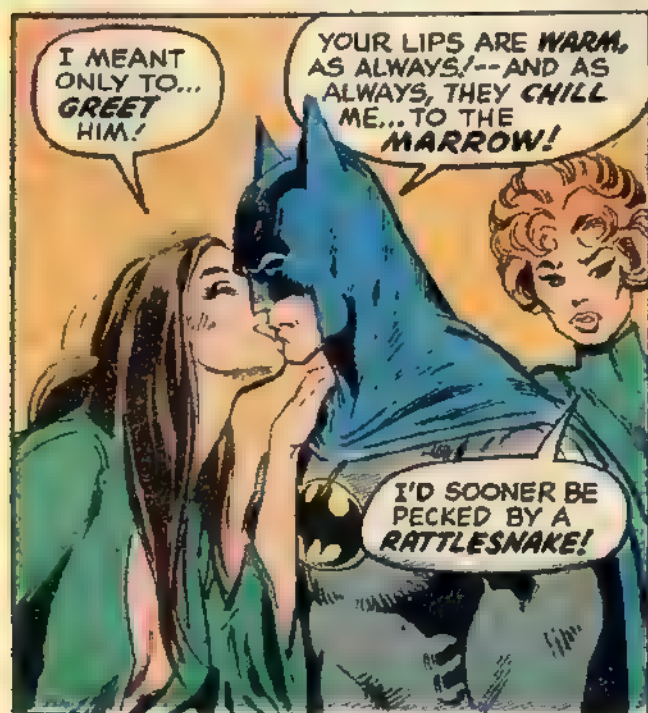
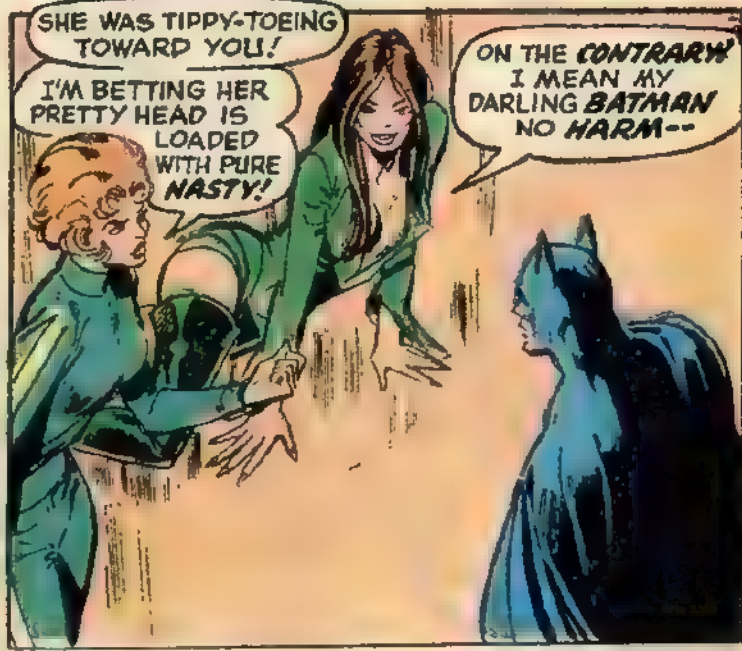
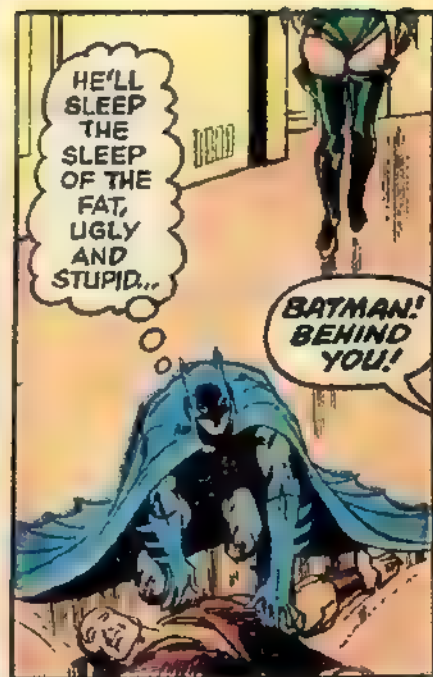
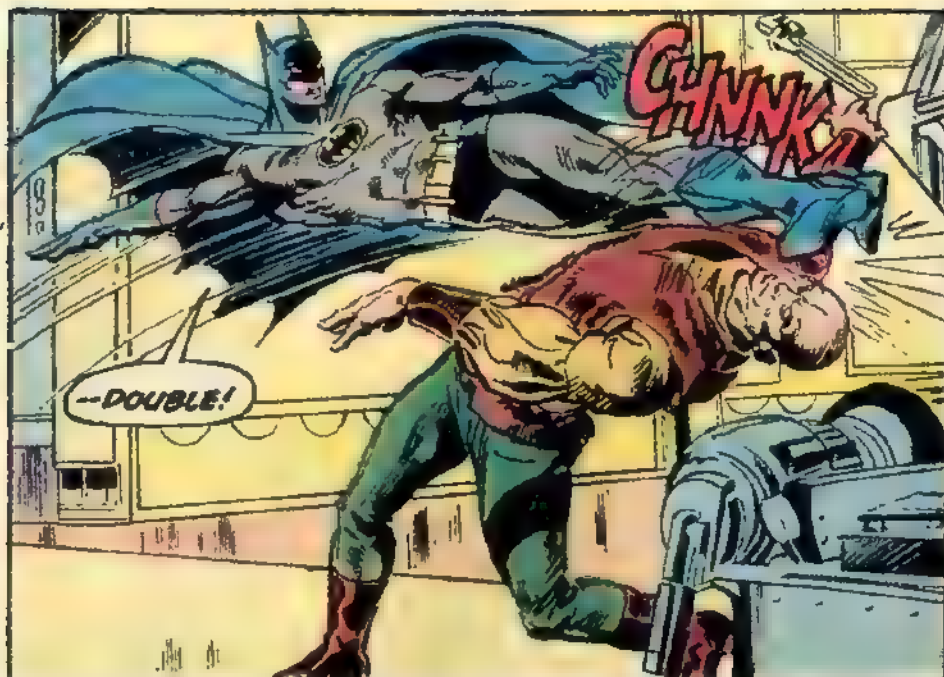
YOU **NEVER** TIRE  
OF GASPING MY NAME,  
HUH, **UBU?**



A FEW HOURS AGO, YOU PUT  
YOUR FOOT IN MY FACE!

I'M ABOUT TO  
RETURN THE  
**FAVOR--**

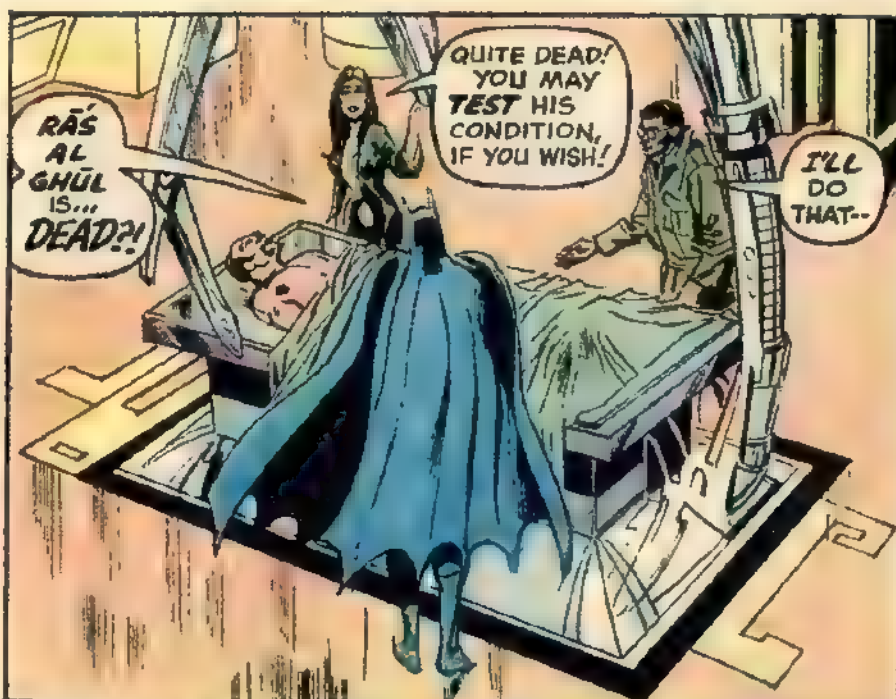








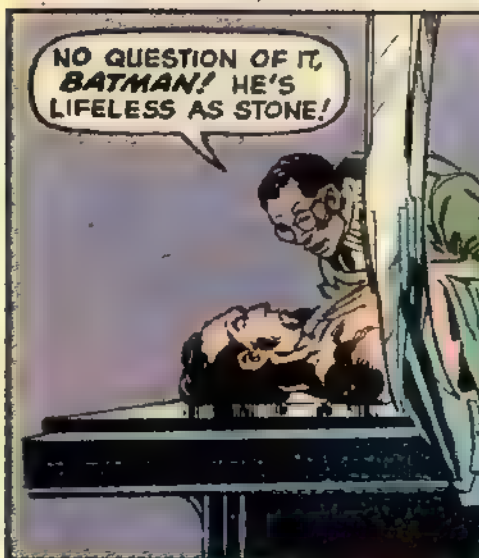
TO BE PRECISE...  
HIS **BODY** IS  
PRESENT! HIS  
SOUL... HAS  
DEPARTED!



RĀS  
AL  
GHŪL  
IS...  
DEAD?!

QUITE DEAD!  
YOU MAY  
**TEST** HIS  
CONDITION,  
IF YOU WISH!

I'LL  
DO  
THAT--

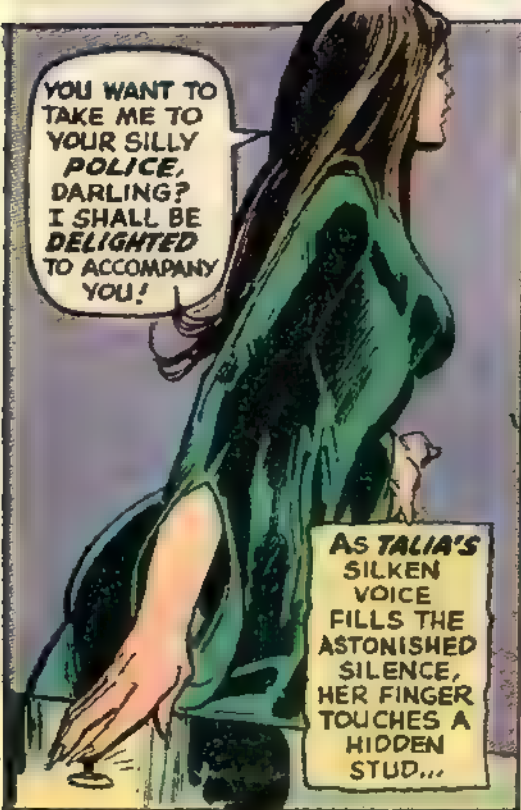


NO QUESTION OF IT,  
**BATMAN!** HE'S  
LIFELESS AS STONE!



YOU DON'T SEEM  
**SORRY, TALIA!**

I AM NOT!  
HE HAD A LONG,  
EVENTFUL  
LIFE...  
**SEVERAL**  
LONG  
LIVES!



YOU WANT TO  
TAKE ME TO  
YOUR SILLY  
**POLICE,**  
DARLING?  
I SHALL BE  
**DELIGHTED**  
TO ACCOMPANY  
YOU!

AS TALIA'S  
SILKEN  
VOICE  
FILLS THE  
ASTONISHED  
SILENCE,  
HER FINGER  
TOUCHES A  
HIDDEN  
STUD...



THE JOURNEY TO  
CIVILIZATION WILL  
BE **MOST**  
ENJOYABLE-- IN  
YOUR COMPANY!

I'LL BET YOU'LL GET  
BIG KICKS FROM  
**JAIL, TOO!**

ANY MORE  
CHORES,  
**BATMAN?**

NO...OUR  
JOB IS  
**FINISHED!**

**NOT TRUE, BATMAN--**



--FOR HAD YOU  
REMAINED IN THE  
DEATH-CHAMBER,  
YOU WOULD HAVE  
SEEN THE HEAVY  
SLAB BEARING  
THE STILL FORM  
OF RAS AL GHUL  
SINK INTO A  
PIT...

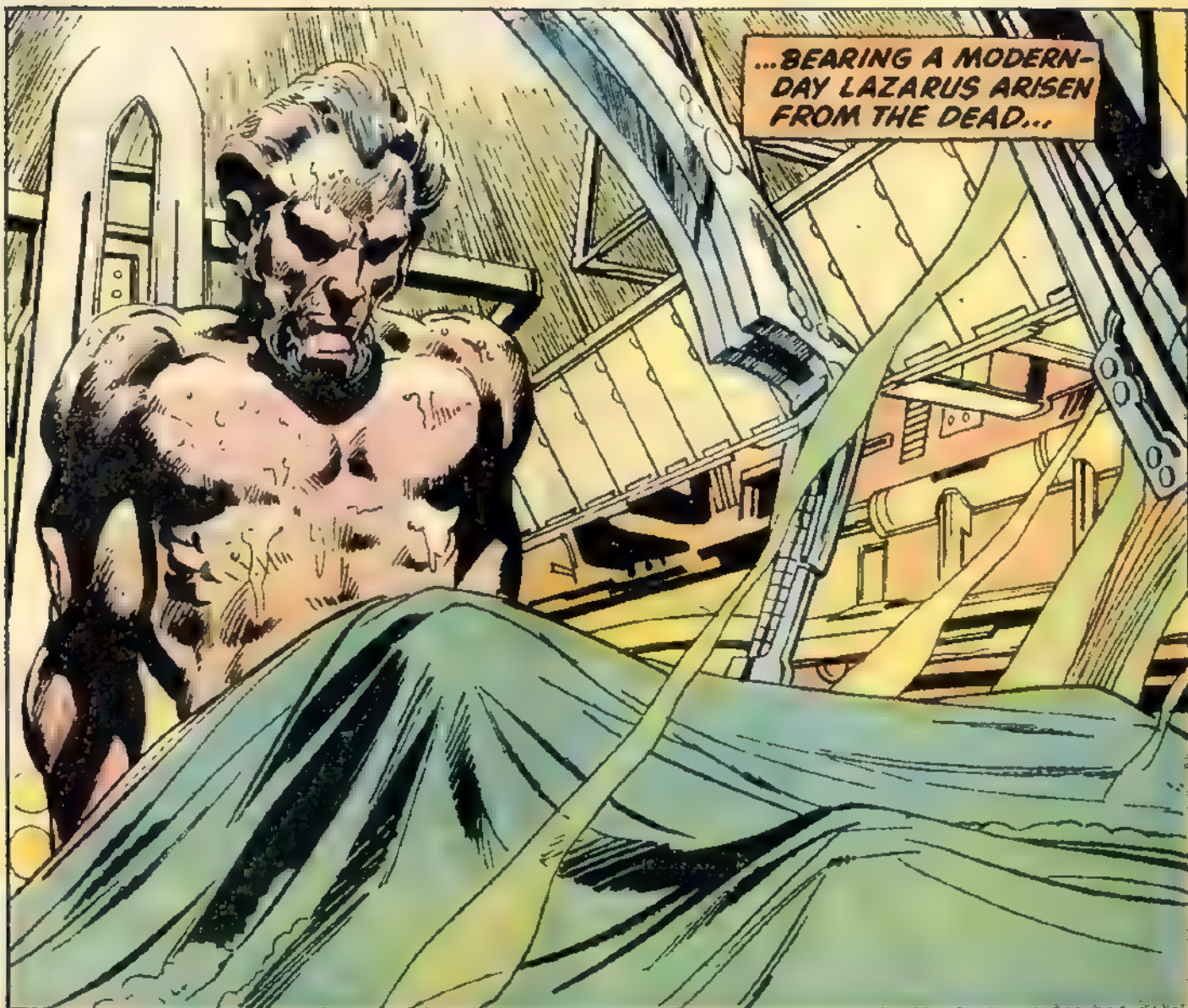
YOU WOULD HEAR A FAINT HISS...  
AND SMELL A THICK, MUSTY ODOR  
AS BUBBLING LIQUID COVERS IT...

COVERS IT COMPLETELY  
FOR A MINUTE...TWO...

...AND THEN, ABRUPTLY, YOU  
WOULD SEE THE SLAB SURFACE...

...RISE ABOVE  
THE FLOOR...



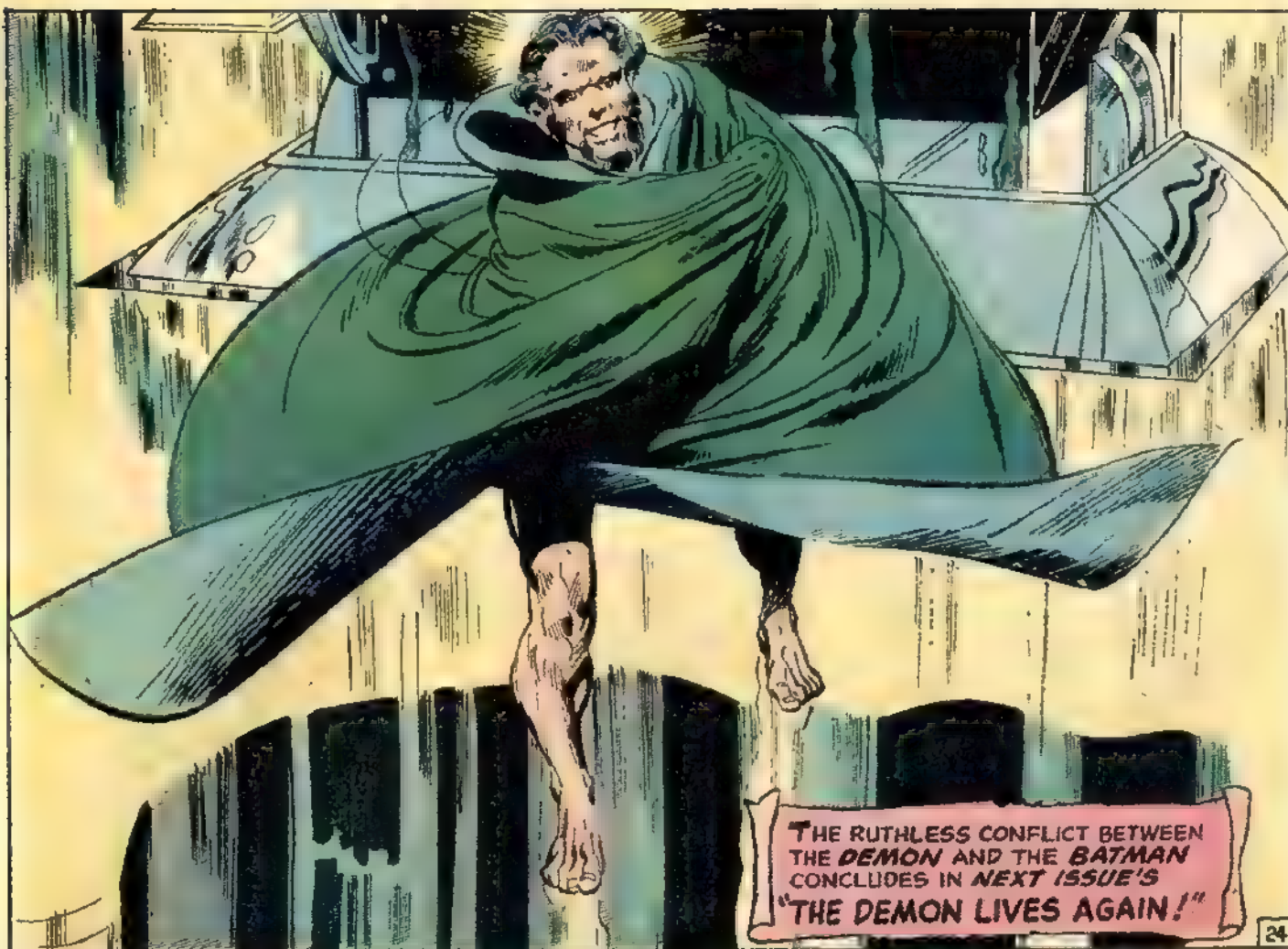


**...BEARING A MODERN-  
DAY LAZARUS ARISEN  
FROM THE DEAD...**



**--A MIRTHLESS, INSANE  
JOY GLITTERING  
IN HIS EYES!**





**NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT JULY 13TH**

# Tarzan



IS

HERE,

## EVERY MONTH

**NEXT ISSUE ON SALE JUNE 27**







BATMAN

NO. 244  
SEPT.  
30430



# BAT MAN

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY



THE DEMON  
LIVES AGAIN!



HEREWITH... ANOTHER INCREDIBLE  
CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF THE  
WORLD'S GREATEST CRIME-FIGHTER...

COME TO A CHALET NESTLED  
HIGH IN THE SWISS ALPS...  
FEEL THE CLEAN BITE OF WINTER  
AND LISTEN TO A DISTANT SCREAM  
OF WIND IN ENDLESS CREVICES...

HERE THE BATMAN AND HIS  
COMPANIONS HAVE CAPTURED  
TALIA, DAUGHTER OF ARCH-  
CRIMINAL RÄS AL GHÜL...

HERE, ALSO, THEY WATCHED  
RÄS HIMSELF DIE... THEY  
THOUGHT!

BUT NOW, A POWERFUL FIGURE  
LEAPS TOWARD THEM, A SNARL  
IN HIS THROAT AND BLOOD-LUST  
GLITTERING IN HIS EYES--

# THE DEMON LIVES AGAIN!!

STORY BY:  
DENNY O'NEIL

ART BY:  
NEAL ADAMS &  
DICK GIORDANO

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MINUTES EARLIER, RAS'S DEAD BODY HAD SUNK INTO A FOUL-SMELLING HOLE-- THE LAZARUS PIT-- HAD LAIN THERE FOR A HANDFUL OF SECONDS...

THEN, SLOWLY, THE SLAB ON WHICH HE LAY ROSE... THE STILL FORM STIRRED...

...ERUPTED INTO FURIOUS MOTION!

AND NOW...

IT'S...IMPOSSIBLE! HE'S DEAD! I EXAMINED HIS CORPSE PERSONALLY!

THEN THE LEGENDS ARE TRUE!

YES--

...THE LEGENDS THAT SAY RAS AL GHUL HAS BEEN REBORN MANY TIMES!

AND MORE! WHEN MY FATHER FIRST RETURNS TO LIFE, HE HAS THE STRENGTH OF TEN--

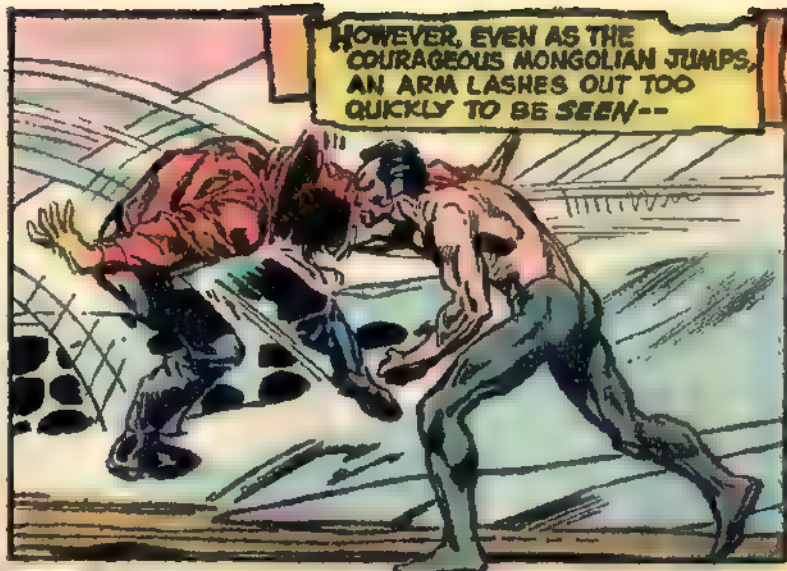
--A FIT OF MADNESS SEIZES HIM!

CAREFUL, LING... DON'T TRY UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH!

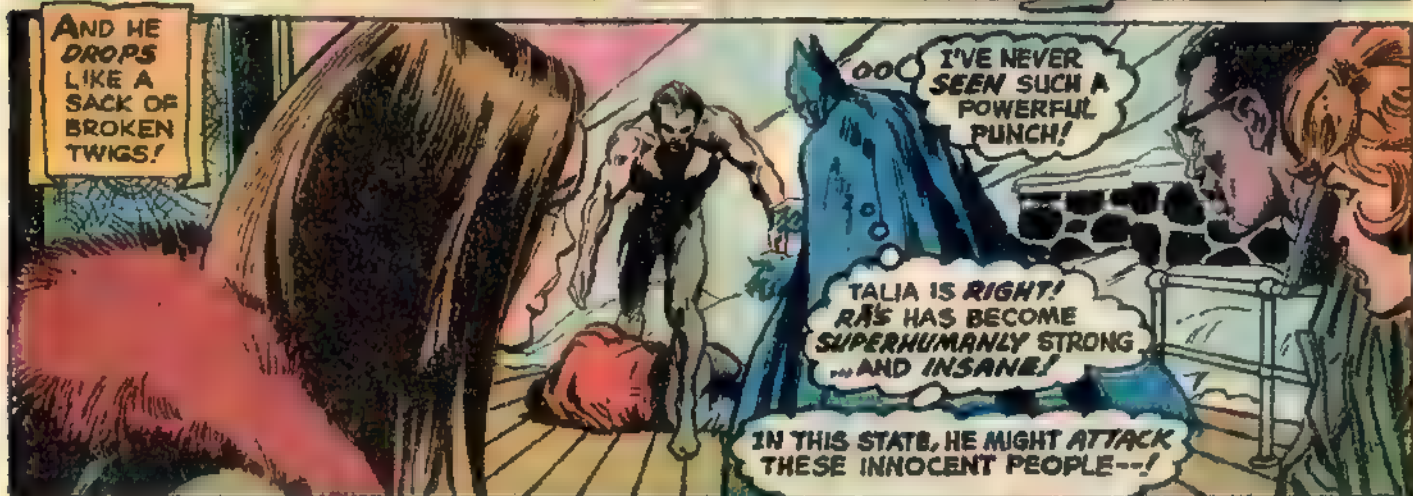




LING  
FEARS  
NEITHER  
MAN...  
NOR  
GHOST!



HOWEVER, EVEN AS THE  
COURAGEOUS MONGOLIAN JUMPS,  
AN ARM LASHES OUT TOO  
QUICKLY TO BE SEEN--

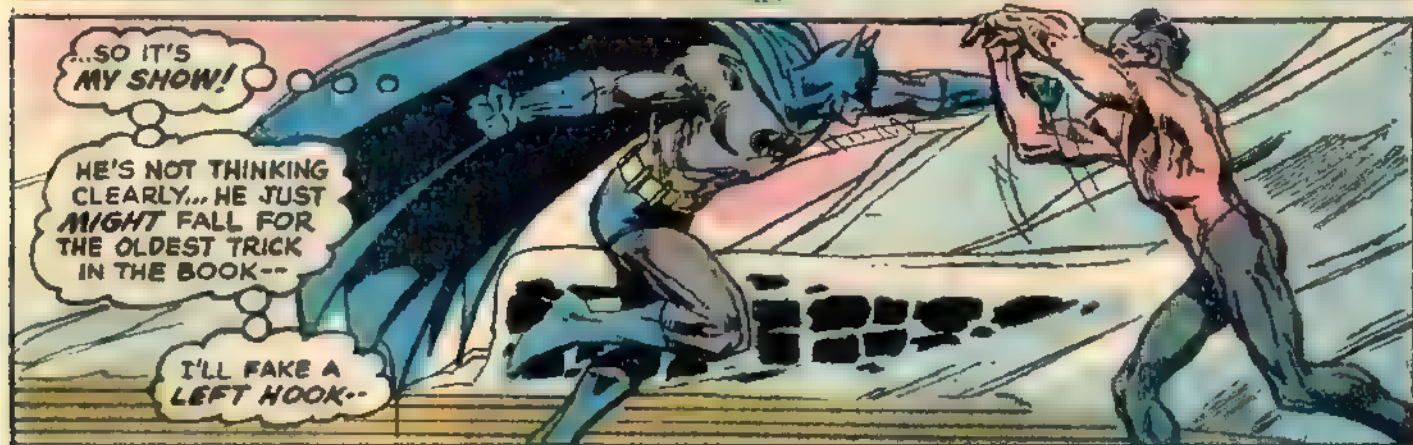


AND HE  
DROPS  
LIKE A  
SACK OF  
BROKEN  
TWIGGS!

I'VE NEVER  
SEEN SUCH A  
POWERFUL  
PUNCH!

TALIA IS RIGHT!  
RA'S HAS BECOME  
SUPERHUMANLY STRONG  
...AND INSANE!

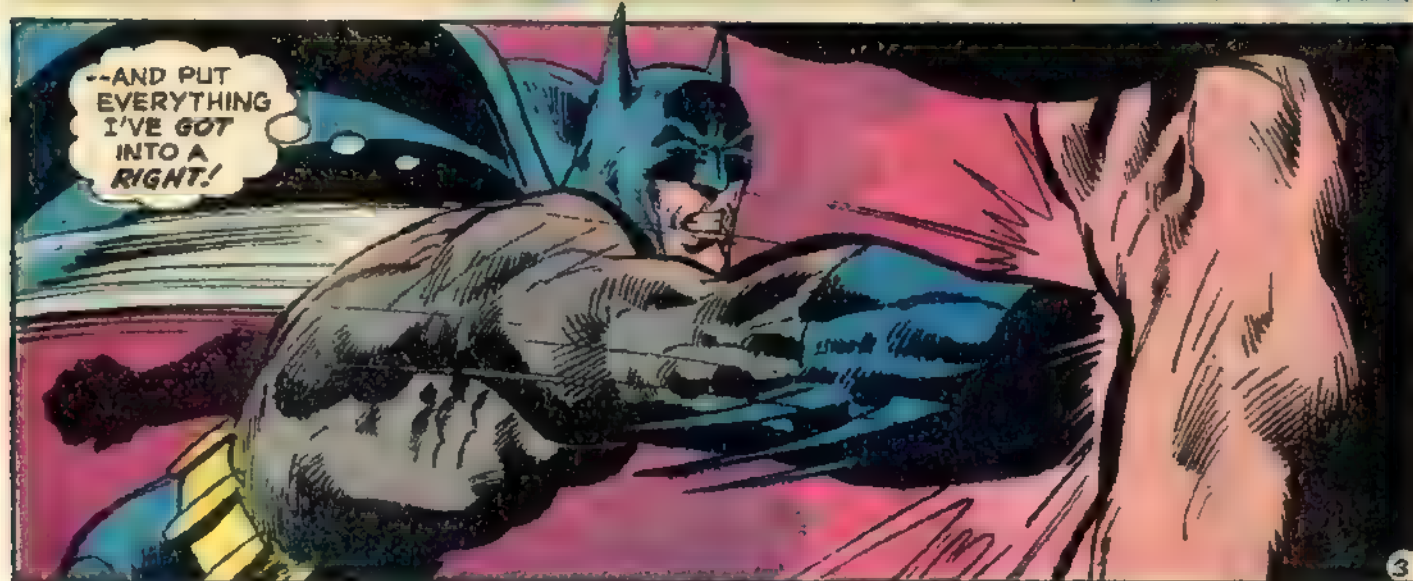
IN THIS STATE, HE MIGHT ATTACK  
THESE INNOCENT PEOPLE--!



...SO IT'S  
MY SHOW!

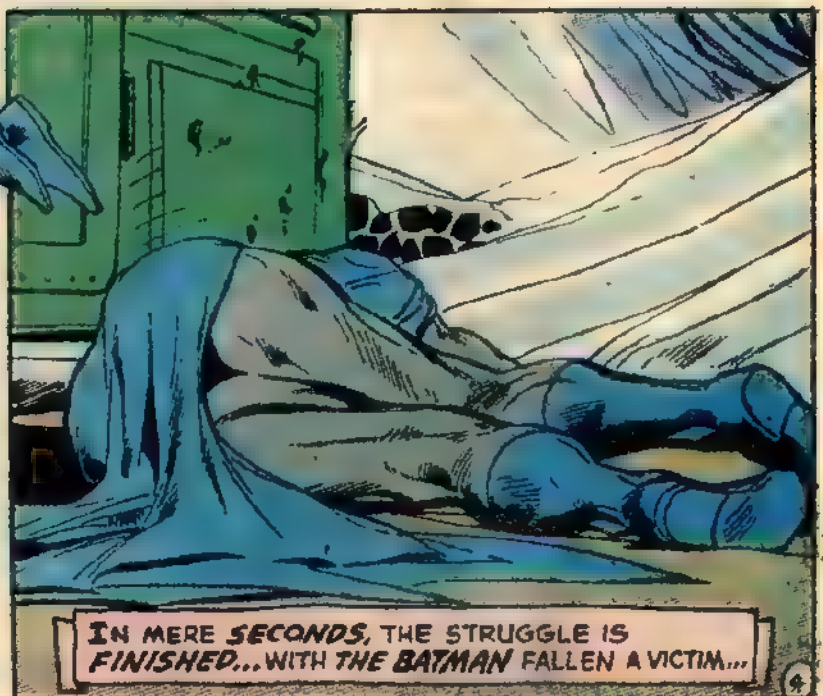
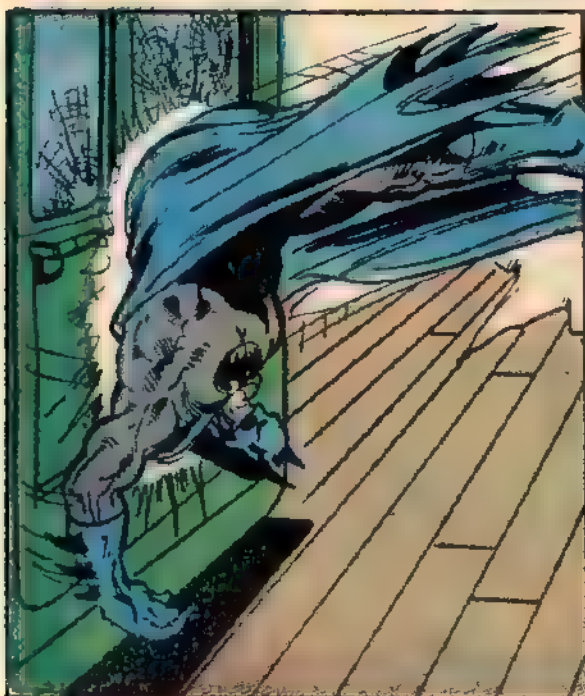
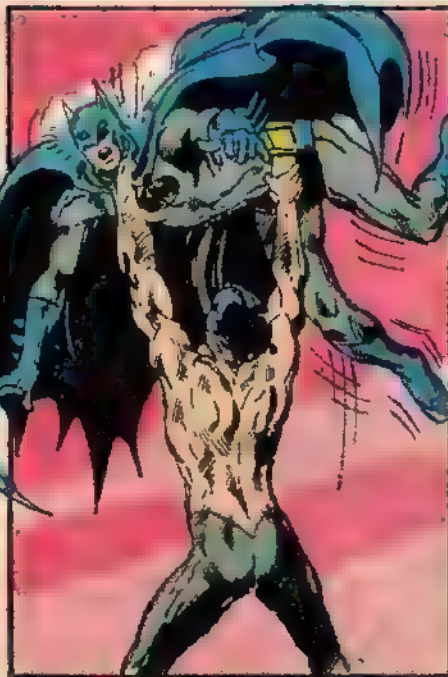
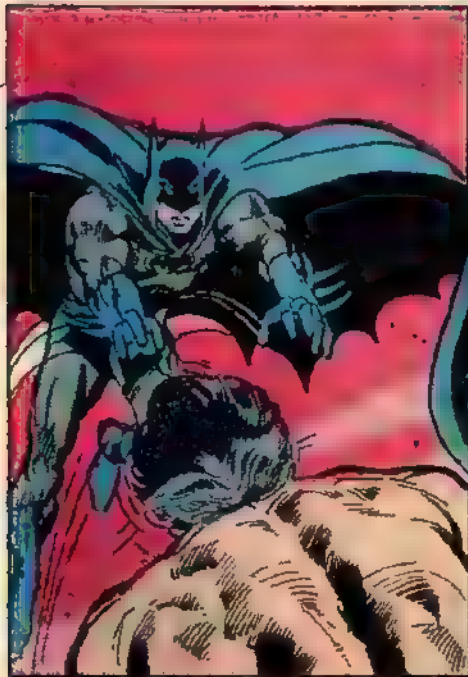
HE'S NOT THINKING  
CLEARLY... HE JUST  
MIGHT FALL FOR  
THE OLDEST TRICK  
IN THE BOOK--

I'LL FAKE A  
LEFT HOOK--

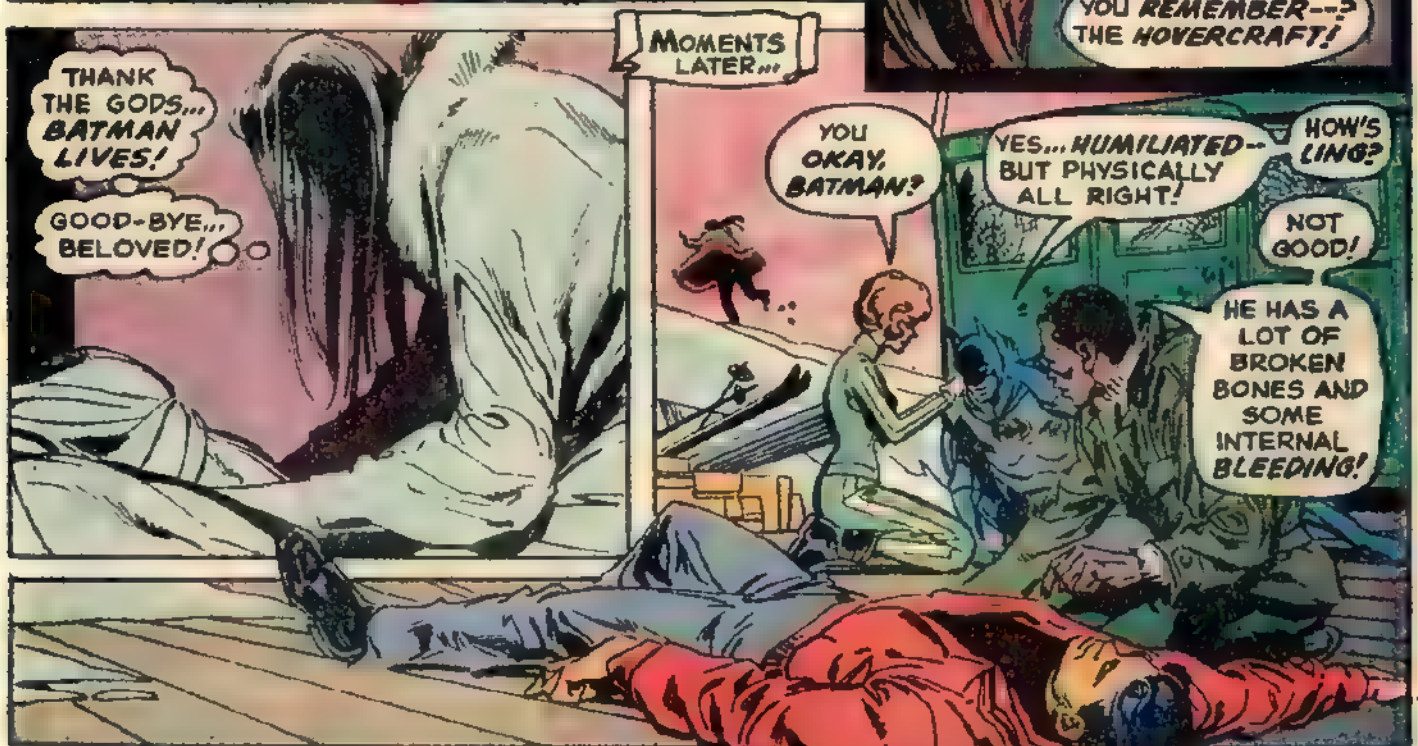
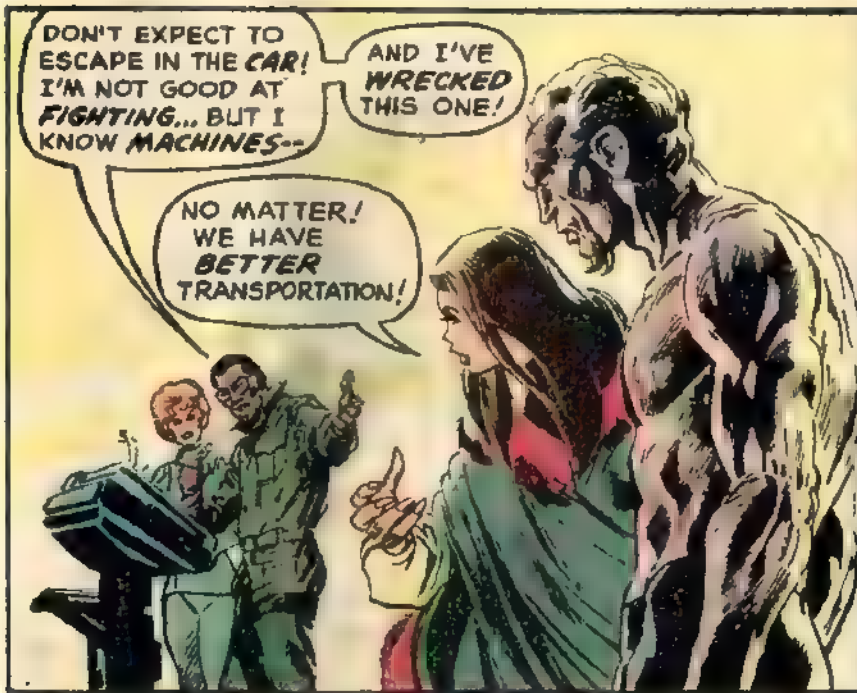


--AND PUT  
EVERYTHING  
I'VE GOT  
INTO A  
RIGHT!







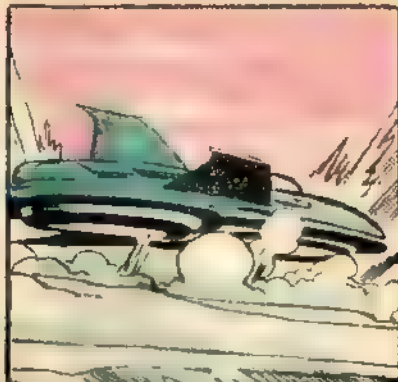
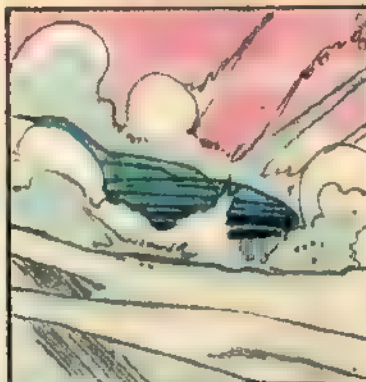
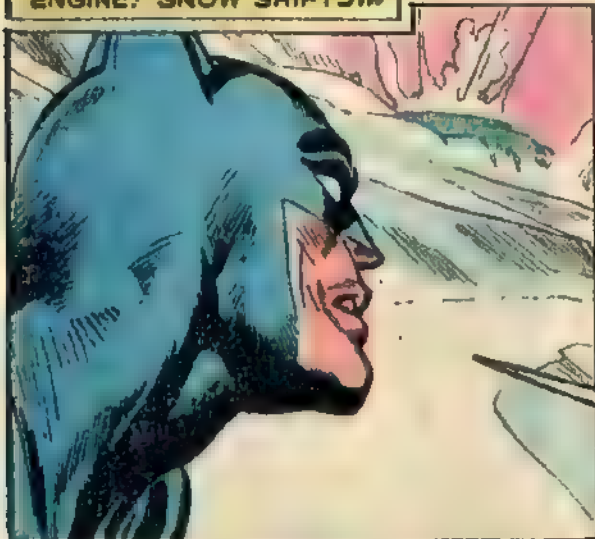




**THE BATMAN** LOOKS IN THE DIRECTION MOLLY IS POINTING... AND, SUDDENLY, THERE IS THE SOUND OF A POWERFUL ENGINE! SNOW SHIFTS...

...THE WHITENESS DROPS AWAY TO REVEAL SLEEK, SHINY **STEEL** --

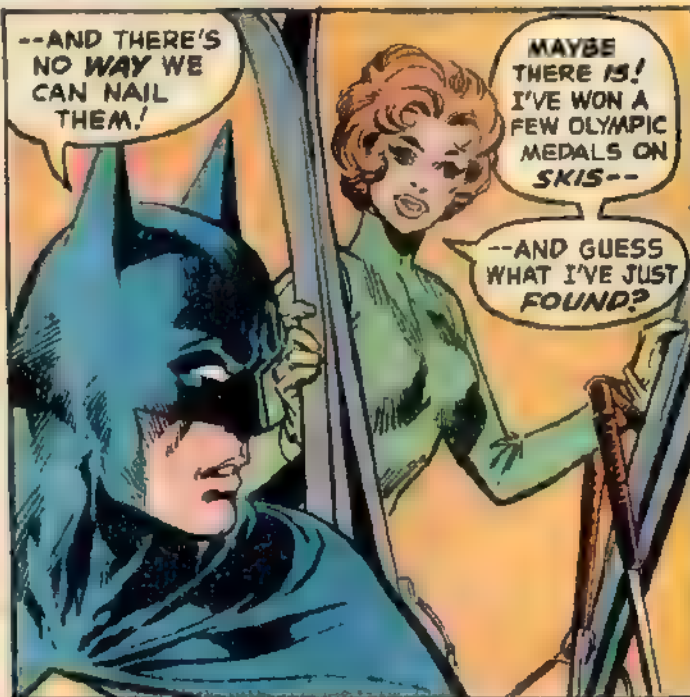
--AND A STRANGELY SHAPED **CRAFT** LIFTS INTO THE AIR!...



...SOME SORT OF HOVERCRAFT, MODIFIED FOR TRAVEL ON THIS TERRAIN!



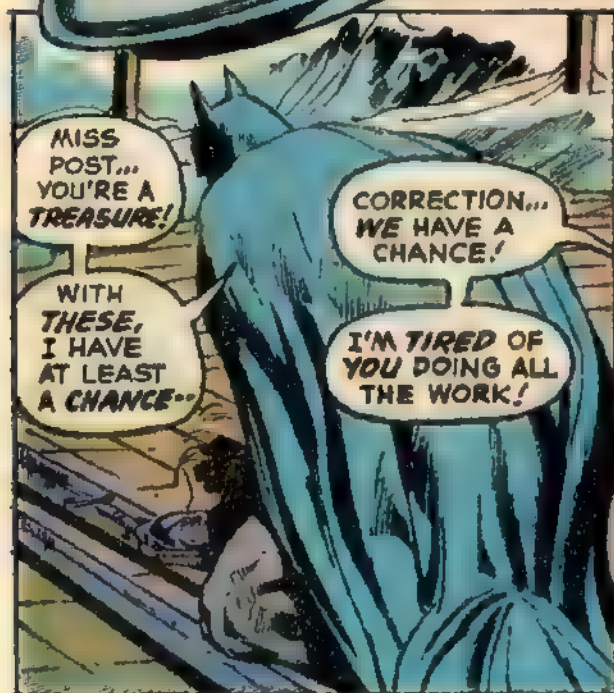
RÄ'S AND TALIA ARE GETTING AWAY CLEAN--



--AND THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN NAIL THEM!

MAYBE THERE IS! I'VE WON A FEW OLYMPIC MEDALS ON **SKIS**--

--AND GUESS WHAT I'VE JUST FOUND?



MISS POST... YOU'RE A **TREASURE!**

WITH THESE, I HAVE AT LEAST A CHANCE--

CORRECTION... WE HAVE A CHANCE!

I'M TIRED OF YOU DOING ALL THE WORK!



I CAN'T PERMIT YOU TO ENDANGER...

TO STOP ME, YOU'LL HAVE TO CATCH ME!

--BYE-BYE!

CONTINUED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING



WITHIN A  
HEARTBEAT,  
THE BATMAN  
IS HURLING  
AFTER  
MOLLY POST!

THE LONG, STEEP SLOPE IN  
FRONT OF HIM IS A BLUR...  
EVERY MUSCLE REACTING  
TO THE CHALLENGE OF  
SPEED, SNOW AND WIND--

MOLLY'S GOOD...  
VERY GOOD!

SHE'S CHOSEN A ROUTE  
THAT'LL GET US TO THE  
BOTTOM *BEFORE* THE HOVER-  
CRAFT-- *MAYBE!*

UNFORTUNATELY,  
IT'S ALSO A PATH  
FULL OF  
OBSTACLES  
AND DROP-  
OFFS!

HOPE I  
CAN FINISH  
WITHOUT  
BREAKING  
A LIMB!

IT WAS BAD  
ENOUGH BEING  
HUMILIATED  
BY RÅ'S--

--TO BE SHOWN  
UP BY MOLLY  
WOULD BE MORE  
THAN MY PRIDE  
COULD STAND!

THE GIRL IS  
INCREDIBLE!  
SHE'S GOTTEN  
IN FRONT OF  
RÅ'S AND  
TALIA--

HOW  
CAN SHE  
POSSIBLY  
HOPE TO  
HALT  
THEM?

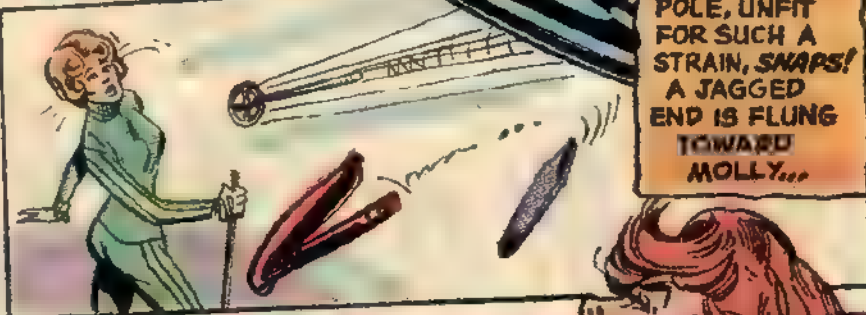


THEN, THE BATMAN'S UNVOICED QUESTION IS ANSWERED--- FOR THE GIRL HEAVES A SKI-POLE AT THE ON-RUSHING VEHICLE... THROWS IT AT THE SPINNING PROPELLER WHICH HOLDS THE CRAFT ALOFT.

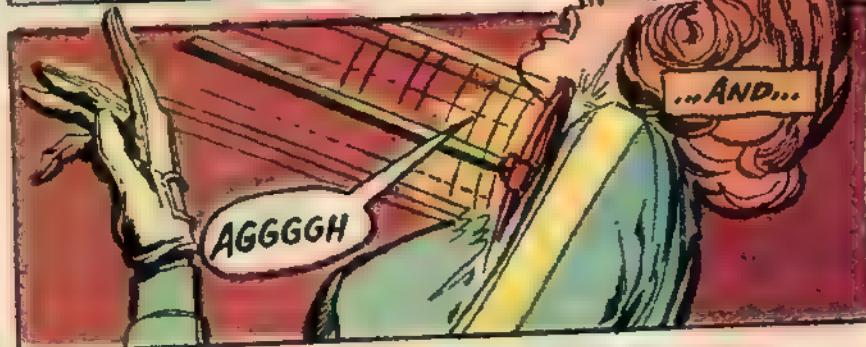
...ALUMINUM CLASHES WITH STEEL...TO PERFECT EFFECT! THE PROPELLER IS FOULED...



BUT THE ALUMINUM POLE, UNFIT FOR SUCH A STRAIN, SNAPS! A JAGGED END IS FLUNG TOWARD MOLLY...



...AND...



AS RÅ'S AL GHÛL AND HIS DAUGHTER STUMBLE AWAY, THE BATMAN SKIDS TO MOLLY'S SIDE...

THE YOUNG FOOL RUINED OUR VEHICLE!

HURRY, FATHER... WE MUST FLEE! THE BATMAN IS COMING--

AND I DOUBT YOU'LL BEST HIM IN COMBAT A SECOND TIME!

BLAST!-- A ROTTEN CHOICE... CHASE RÅ'S...OR GET MOLLY TO MEDICAL HELP!

NO... NOT REALLY ANY CHOICE AT ALL!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.





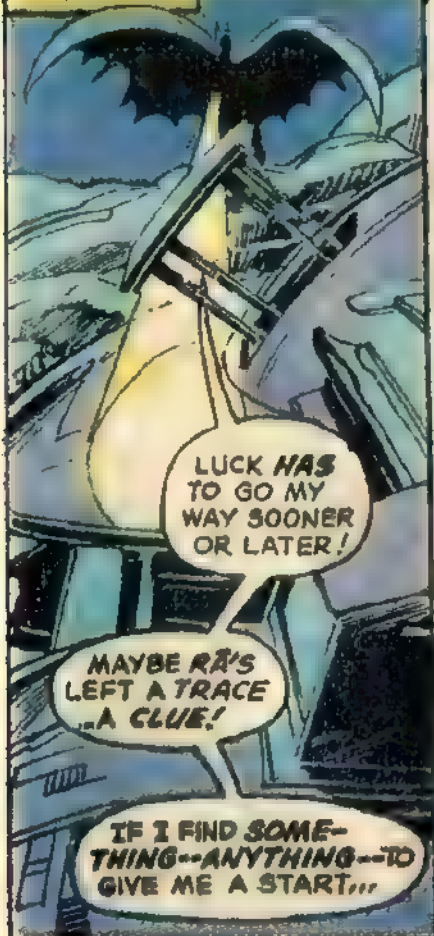
GUESS I MESSED YOU OVER, HUH, BIG FELLA? GETTING MYSELF STUCK IN THE CRUNCH!

I'M SORRY...



DON'T BE, KID! YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL... ONE OF THE BEST!

AND, AS MIDNIGHT WRAPS THE MOUNTAINSIDE IN CHILL DARKNESS, THE BATMAN RETURNS!...



LUCK HAS TO GO MY WAY SOONER OR LATER!

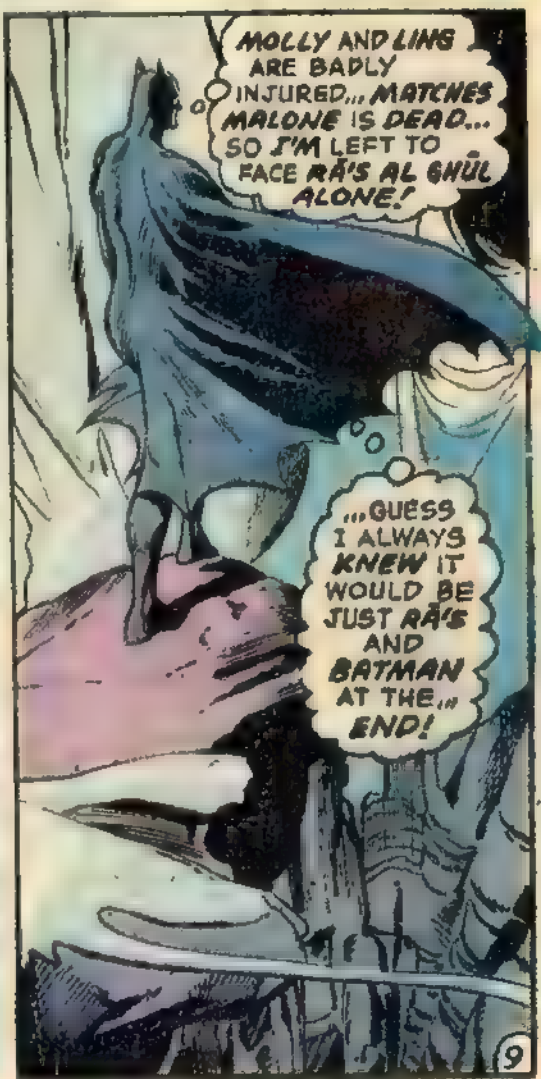
MAYBE RÄ'S LEFT A TRACE... A CLUE!

IF I FIND SOMETHING--ANYTHING--TO GIVE ME A START...



...AND HERE IT IS! THIS BIT OF LEATHER!

NOT MUCH-- BUT ENOUGH!



MOLLY AND LING ARE BADLY INJURED... MATCHES MALONE IS DEAD... SO I'M LEFT TO FACE RÄ'S AL GHÜL ALONE!

...GUESS I ALWAYS KNEW IT WOULD BE JUST RÄ'S AND BATMAN AT THE END!



**HEAT... FIERCE AND  
MERCILESS... A SUN  
THAT STINGS THE  
EYES AND AIR THAT  
SCORCHES THE  
LUNGS AND HUNDREDS  
OF MILES OF SAND  
THAT SHIMMERS AND  
GLISTENS AND BURNS...**

**THIS... IS THE *DESERT*!-- A HELLISH  
PANORAMA OF BLAZING EMPTINESS  
THAT DEFIES LIVING CREATURES...**

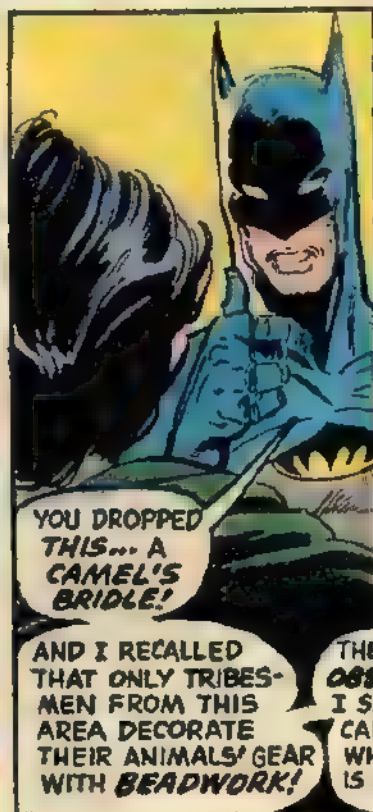
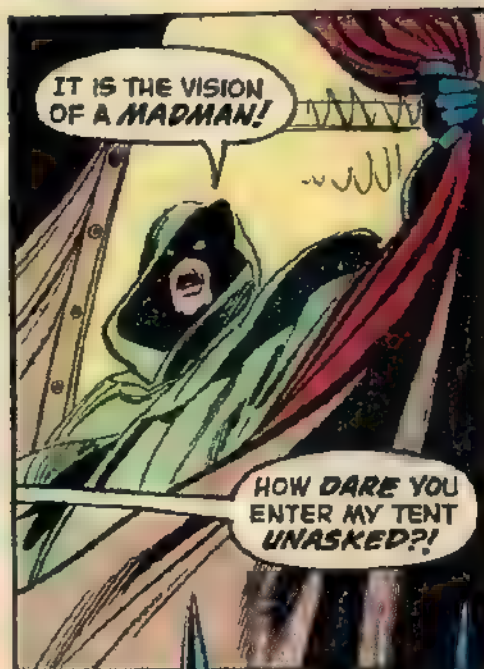
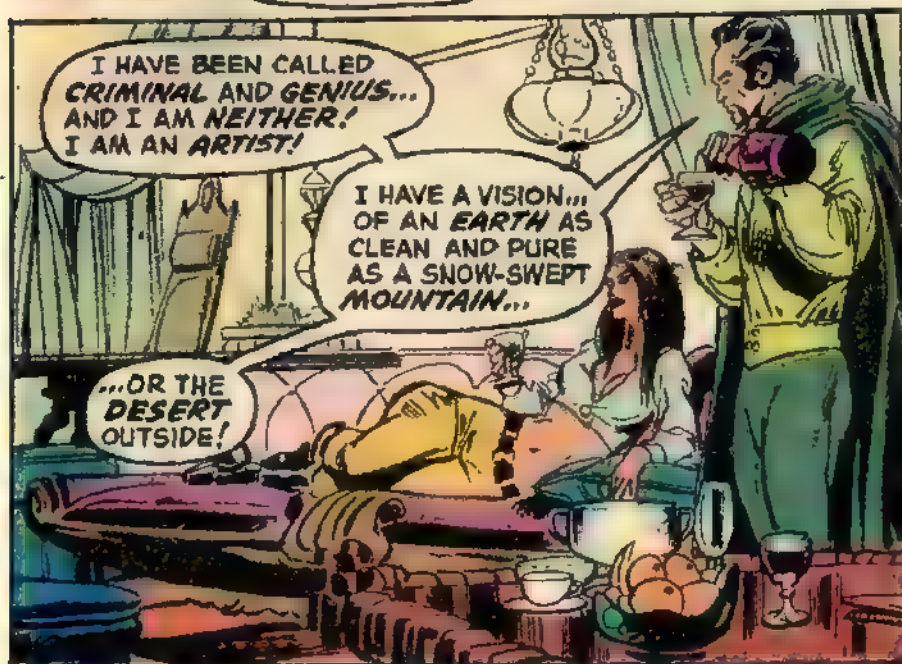
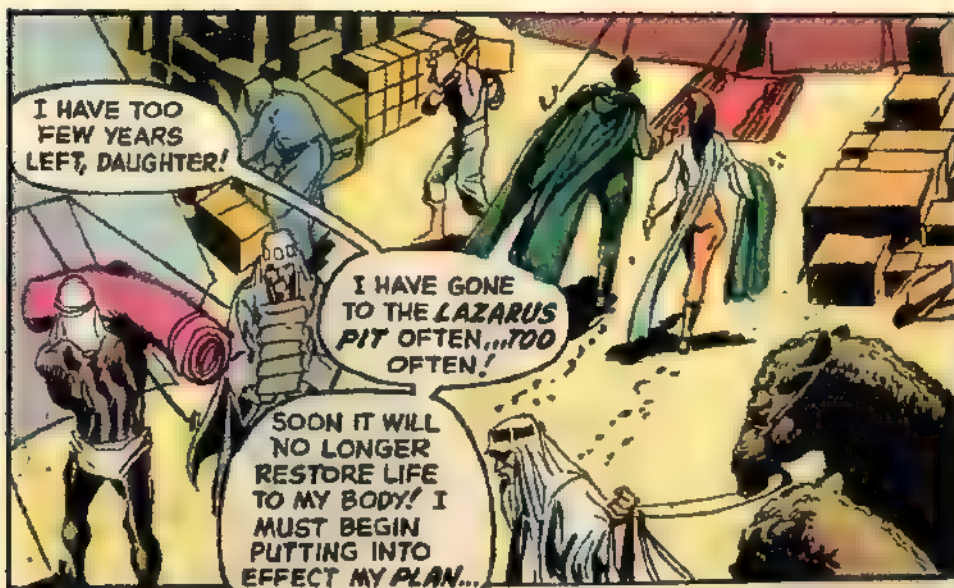
**YET, MEN DO  
LIVE HERE!  
AND STRANGER  
STILL, SOME  
MEN PROSPER...**

**YOU SENT FOR  
MANY SUPPLIES,  
FATHER! I SEE AT  
LEAST FIFTY  
CAMELS!**

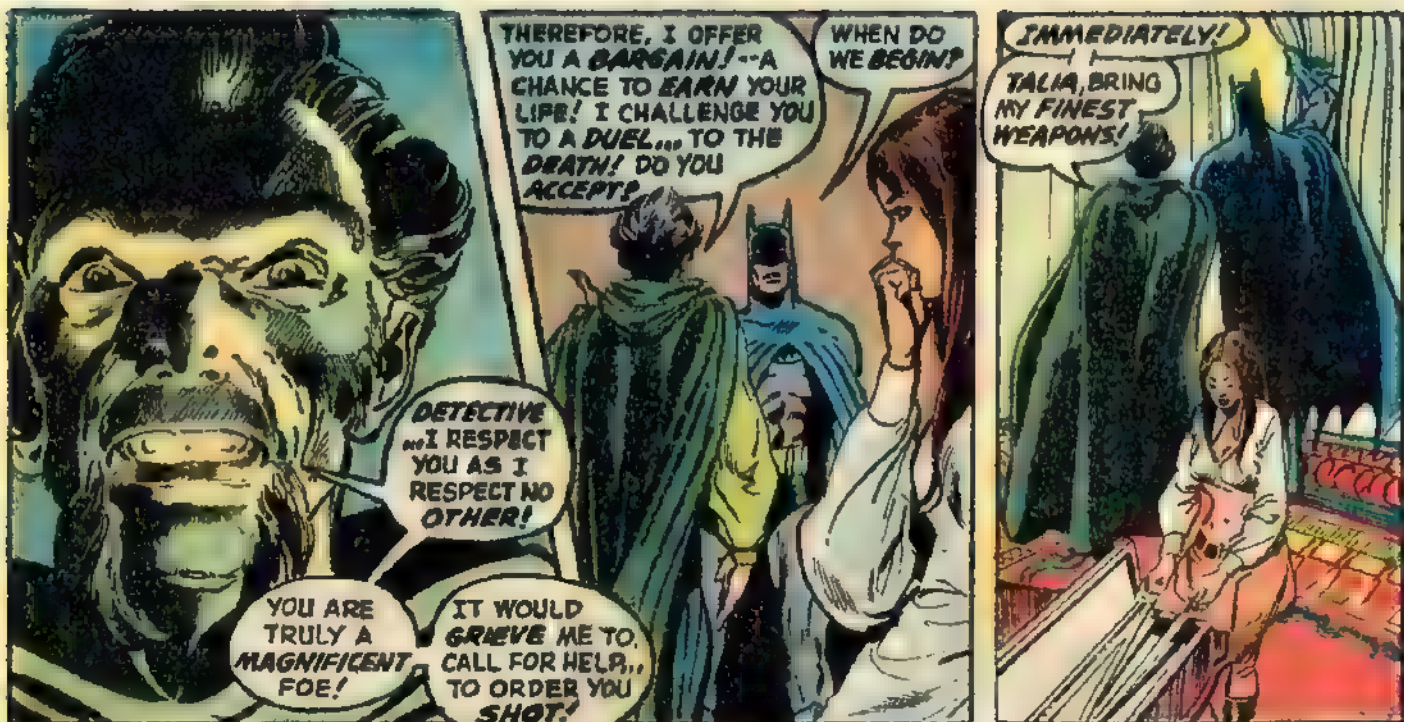
**IT WAS  
NECESSARY!  
THE *DETECTIVE*  
...THE *BATMAN*...  
DESTROYED  
SEVERAL OF  
MY BASES!**

**WE HAVE MUCH  
REBUILDING TO  
DO!**

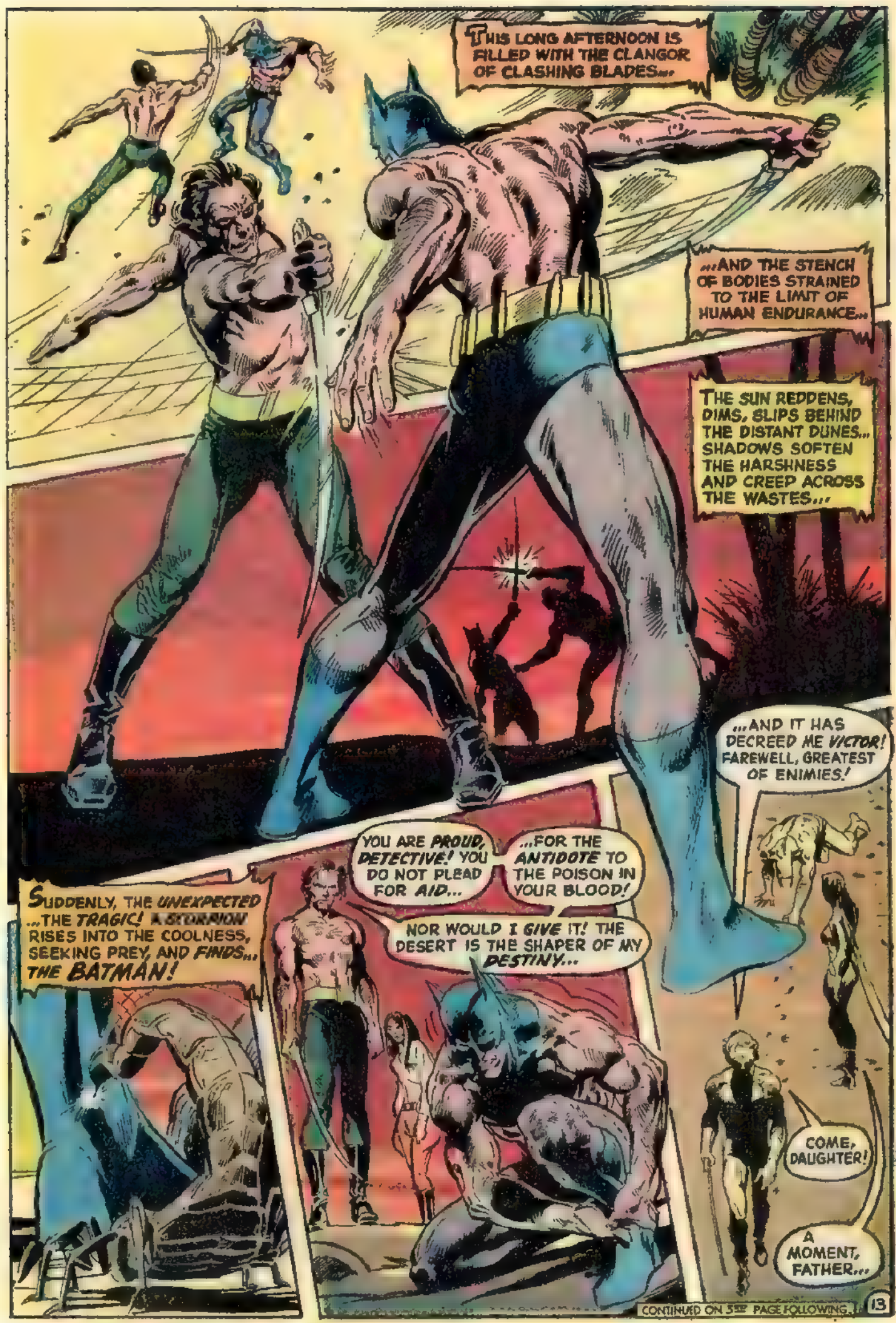










A large comic book panel showing Batman in a desert environment at sunset. He is in a combat stance, facing a muscular man (the Scorpion) who is holding a sword. In the background, other figures are visible, including one on a horse. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and blue.

THIS LONG AFTERNOON IS FILLED WITH THE CLANGOR OF CLASHING BLADES...

...AND THE STENCH OF BODIES STRAINED TO THE LIMIT OF HUMAN ENDURANCE...

THE SUN REDDENS, DIMS, SLIPS BEHIND THE DISTANT DUNES... SHADOWS SOFTEN THE HARSHNESS AND CREEP ACROSS THE WASTES...

...AND IT HAS DECREED ME VICTOR! FAREWELL, GREATEST OF ENIMIES!

SUDDENLY, THE UNEXPECTED... THE TRAGIC! A SCORPION RISES INTO THE COOLNESS, SEEKING PREY, AND FINDS... THE BATMAN!

YOU ARE PROUD, DETECTIVE! YOU DO NOT PLEAD FOR AID...

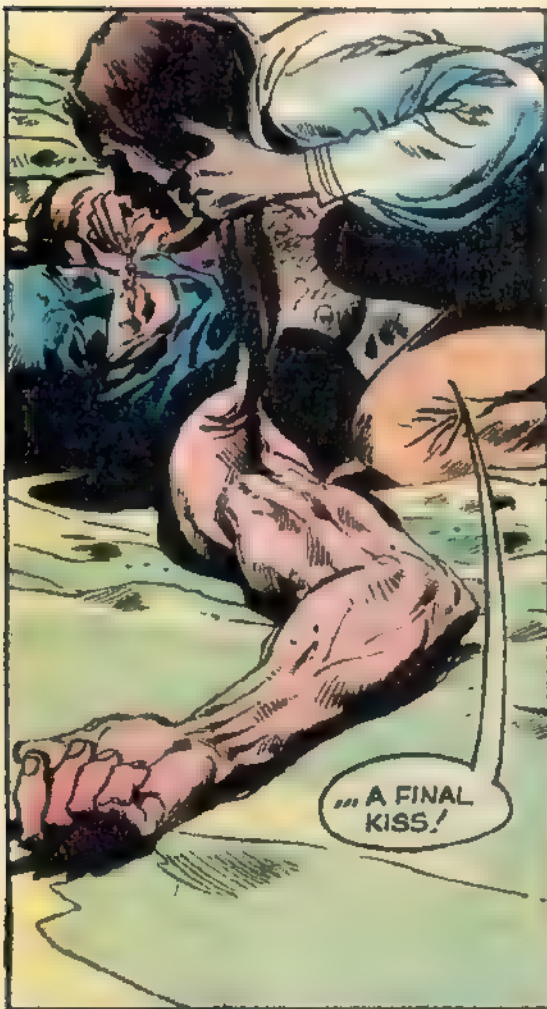
...FOR THE ANTIDOTE TO THE POISON IN YOUR BLOOD!

NOR WOULD I GIVE IT! THE DESERT IS THE SHAPER OF MY DESTINY...

COME, DAUGHTER!

A MOMENT, FATHER...





"A FINAL KISS!"

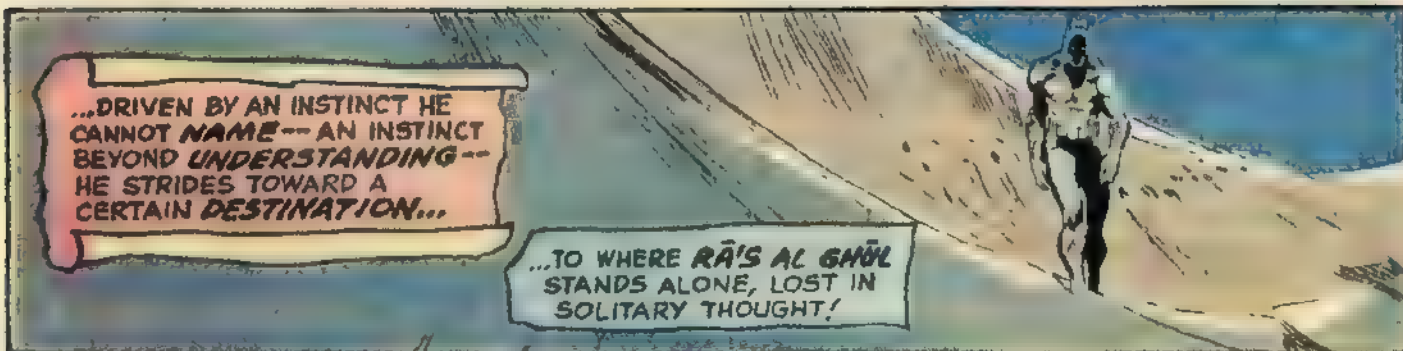


AN ACRID, BITTER TASTE... A BITTERNESS THE DYING BATMAN IS BARELY AWARE OF AS IT TOUCHES PARCHED LIPS...



...UNTIL--MIRACULOUSLY-- HE FEELS STRENGTH FLOODING HIS TORTURED LIMBS, HIS PULSEBEAT QUICKENS!...

TREMBLING, HE STANDS...



...DRIVEN BY AN INSTINCT HE CANNOT NAME-- AN INSTINCT BEYOND UNDERSTANDING-- HE STRIDES TOWARD A CERTAIN DESTINATION...

...TO WHERE RĀ'S AL GHŪL STANDS ALONE, LOST IN SOLITARY THOUGHT!



RĀ'S!

BY THE GODS! YOU PURSUE ME PAST YOUR DYING...

ARE YOU MAN-- OR FIEND FROM HELL?





HE DIDN'T MOVE...  
DIDN'T EVEN TRY  
TO RESIST!

PERHAPS,  
BELOVED,  
HE  
RECOGNIZED  
HIS...  
MASTER!

WILL YOU  
TAKE HIM  
TO THE  
AUTHORITIES?

I MUST! I AM  
SORRY!

AND I?  
AM I ALSO  
TO BE  
IMPRISONED?





16

The End

**D**  
DIGEST  
**C**  
COMIC  
NO. 1

EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS  
PRESENTS  
**Tarzan**

50¢

THE ORIGINAL  
**APE-MAN**  
SHOUTS A CHALLENGE...  
WHICH IS  
ANSWERED BY  
**DANGER!**  
**EXCITEMENT!**  
**ADVENTURE!**  
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# BATMAN

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

BATMAN!  
FIND MY  
KILLER, OR  
I'LL RISE FROM  
MY GRAVE  
AND HANG YOU  
BY THE NECK  
UNTIL YOU ARE  
DEAD!





A PALE, SWIRLING SHROUD COVERS THE CITY AND THE SILENCE SEEMS TO BREATHE! HERE, IN THIS SHATTERED BUILDING, TWO MEN STRUGGLE -- ONE BLINDLY OBEYING, THE OTHER STRUGGLING TO PREVENT A MONSTROUS CRIME.

EVEN AS THE BATMAN PITS HIS MUSCLE AGAINST THE GARGANTUAN FOE, THE IMAGE OF A LOVELY WOMAN HOVERS IN HIS MIND'S EYE -- THE DAUGHTER OF HIS ENEMY, HIS WIFE... AND HE HEARS WORDS SPOKEN ONLY HOURS EARLIER...

WHY DO YOU  
PRONOUNCE  
BATMAN  
AND WIFE?

WRITER: DONNY O'NEIL  
LETTERER: MILT SHAPPIRY

PENCILLER: MICHAEL GOLDEN  
COLORIST: CORY ADAMS

INKER: DICK GIORDANO  
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ





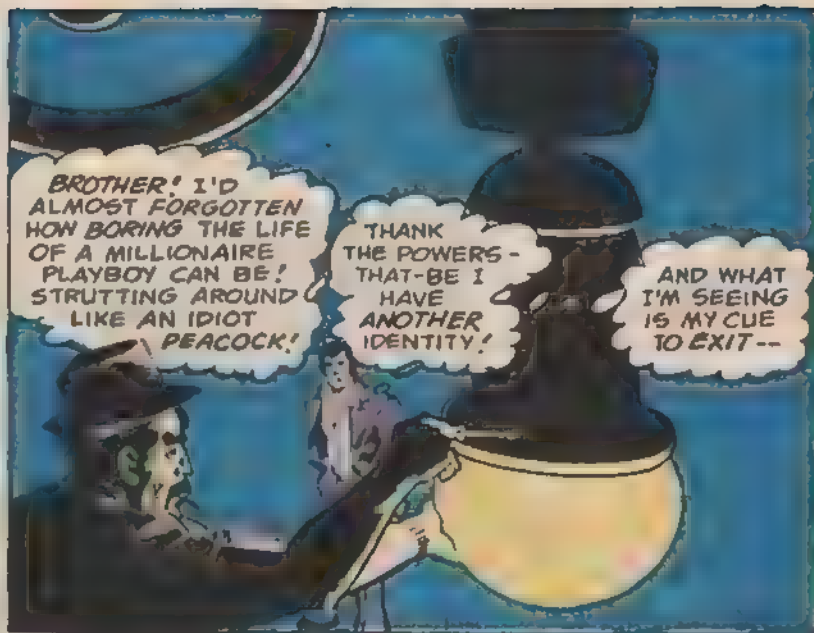
THE MOON IS FULL AND THE CITY SWELTERING...IT IS THE HOTTEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR IN GOTHAM CITY AND THE STREETS ARE THROGGED--

AIN'T THAT CLINT EASTWOOD?

GOtham CITY  
METROPOLITAN  
BANK

NAW...TO YOU,  
ALL HANDSOME  
GUYS ARE  
CLINT  
EASTWOOD!

IT'S BRUCE  
WAYNE--AN' WHO  
CARES? LET'S  
GET A DRINK!



BROTHER! I'D  
ALMOST FORGOTTEN  
HOW BORING THE LIFE  
OF A MILLIONAIRE  
PLAYBOY CAN BE!  
STRUTTING AROUND  
LIKE AN IDIOT  
PEACOCK!

THANK  
THE POWERS--  
THAT-BE I  
HAVE  
ANOTHER  
IDENTITY!

AND WHAT  
I'M SEEING  
IS MY CUE  
TO EXIT--



--AND LET  
THE BATMAN  
TAKE OVER!



HERE HE COMES!  
NO SENSE IN  
TRANSACTIONING OUR  
BUSINESS IN  
PUBLIC--!

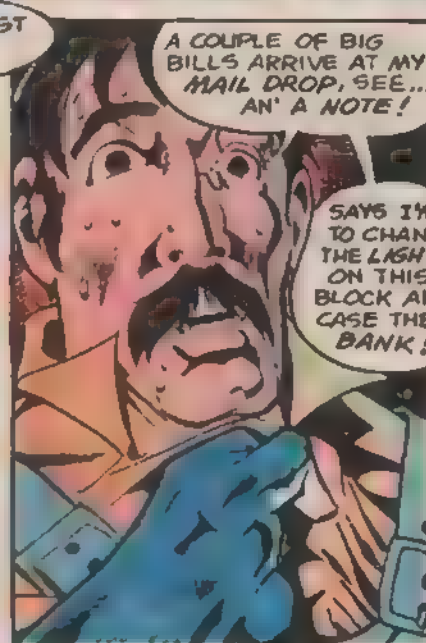
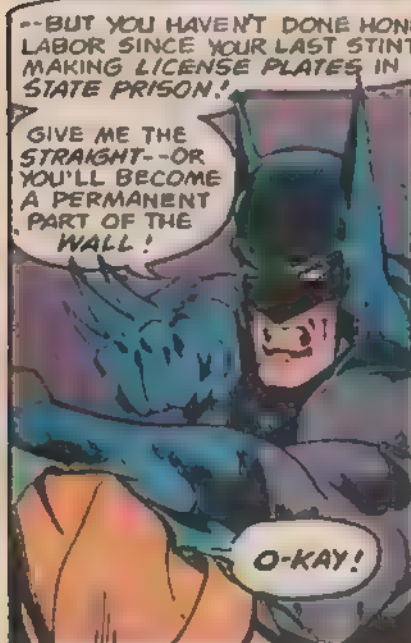
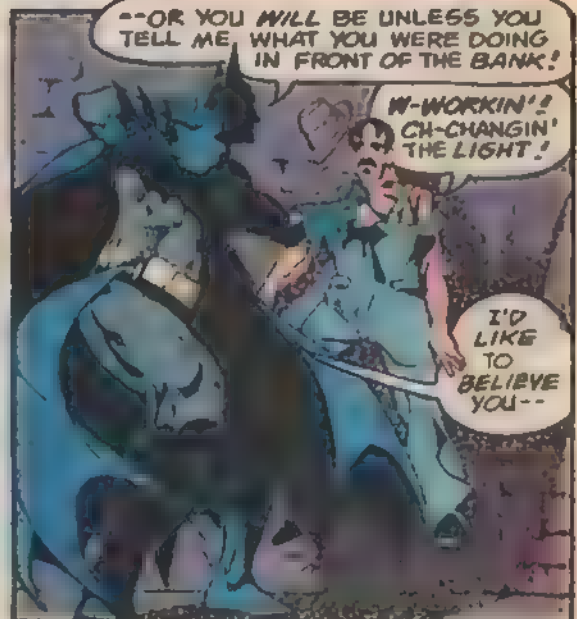
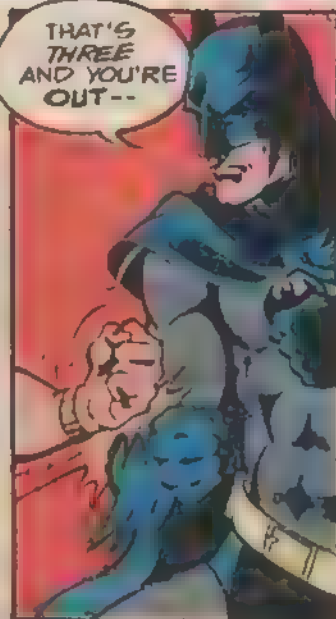
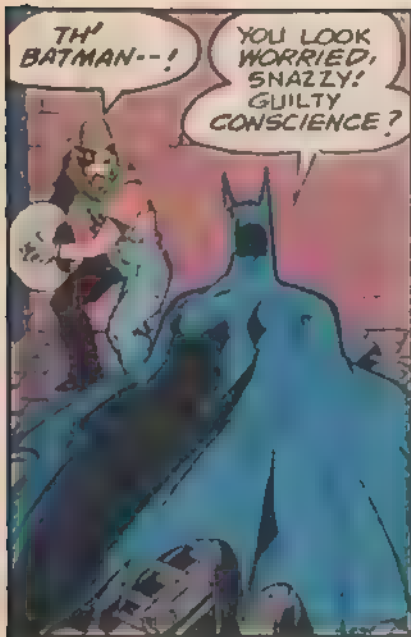


THE NICE PEOPLE  
CAN WATCH KOJAK  
FOR THEIR DOSE  
OF CRIME-ACTION!

MMPH!

SNAZZY!  
SNAZZY  
TROPE!



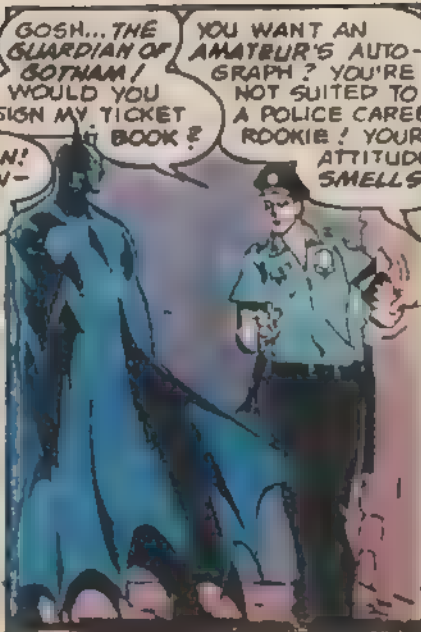






NOT MUCH! YOU CAN BOOK SNAZZY FOR ILLEGAL USE OF CITY PROPERTY AND QUESTION HIM ABOUT A FORTHCOMING ROBBERY!

STAY OFF MY BEAT, BATMAN! US PROFESSIONALS KEEP THE PEACE HERE!



GOSH...THE GUARDIAN OF GOTHAM! WOULD YOU SIGN MY TICKET BOOK?

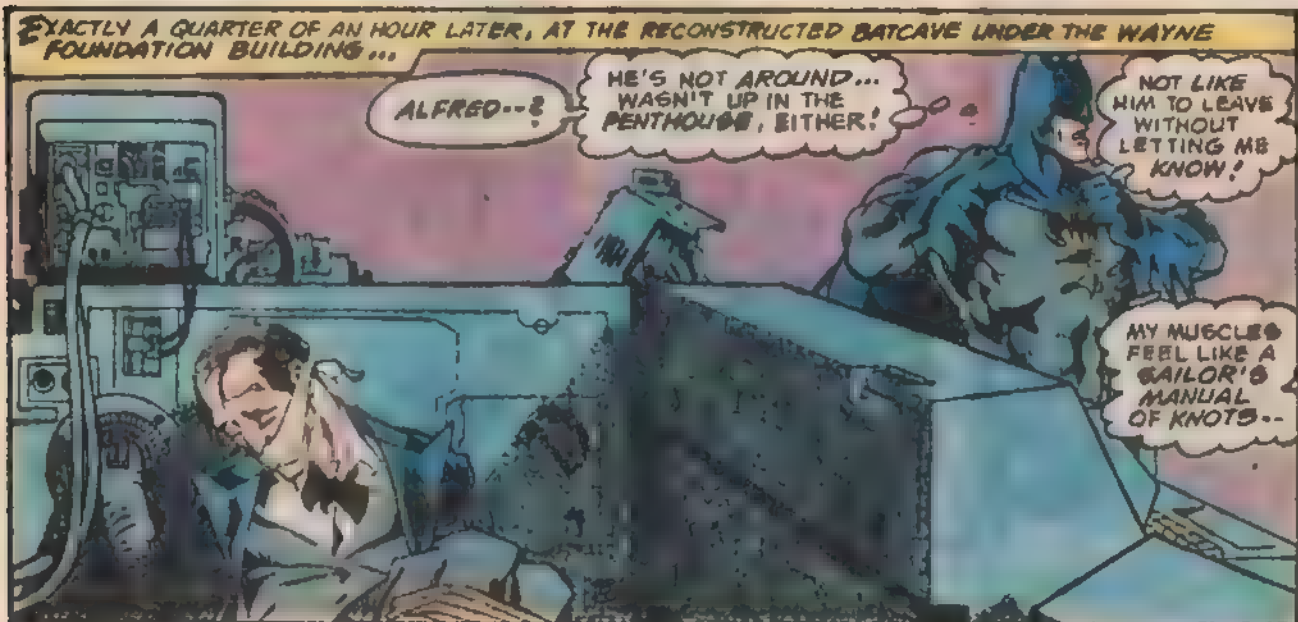
YOU WANT AN AMATEUR'S AUTOGRAPH? YOU'RE NOT SUITED TO A POLICE CAREER, ROOKIE! YOUR ATTITUDE SMELLS!



SORRY, SARGE! IT'S JUST THAT HE'S BEEN MY IDOL FOR YEARS AND HE'S THE GREATEST CRIME-FIGHTER WHO EVER LIVED AND-

QUIET! JUST PUT THE CUFFS ON THIS MONKEY!

THUS, THE BATMAN'S QUESTION GOES UNANSWERED...AND SO, A TRAGEDY BEGINS TO FORM...



EXACTLY A QUARTER OF AN HOUR LATER, AT THE RECONSTRUCTED BATCAVE UNDER THE WAYNE FOUNDATION BUILDING...

ALFRED--?

HE'S NOT AROUND... WASN'T UP IN THE PENTHOUSE, EITHER!

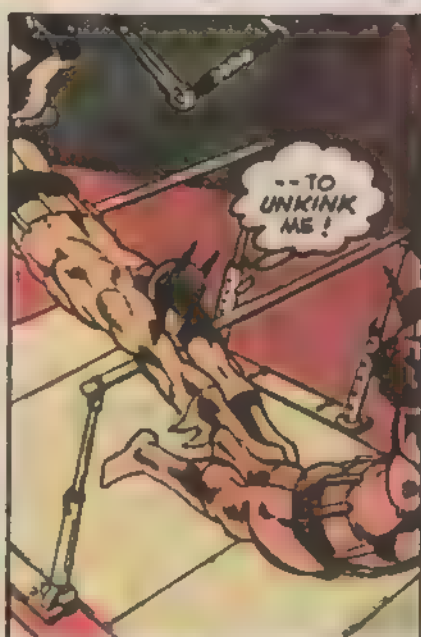
NOT LIKE HIM TO LEAVE WITHOUT LETTING ME KNOW!

MY MUSCLES FEEL LIKE A SAILOR'S MANUAL OF KNOTS--

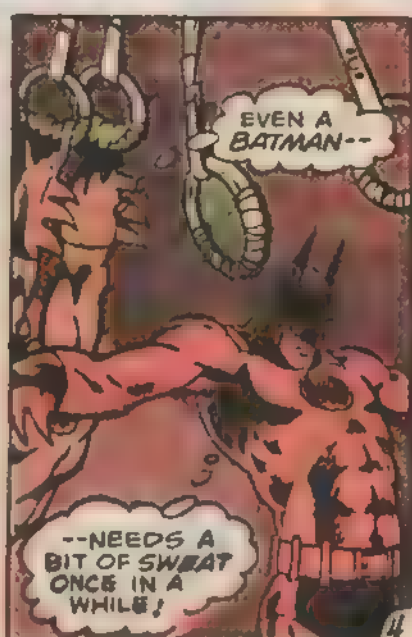


--AND THAT LITTLE WORKOUT WITH SNAZZY--

--DIDN'T DO ANYTHING--



--TO UNKINK ME!



EVEN A BATMAN--

--NEEDS A BIT OF SWEAT ONCE IN A WHILE!

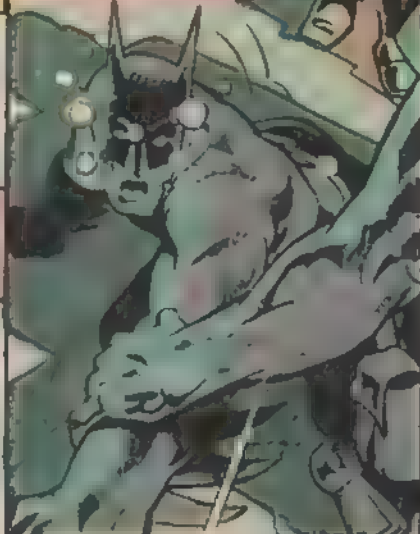




SUDDENLY, THE STRENGTH DRAINS FROM HIS LIMBS AND HIS BREATH IS LIKE A LUMP IN HIS CHEST...

--AND TRIES TO DEFEND HIMSELF... IN VAIN!

AS HE PLUNGES INTO A CHASM OF DARKNESS, HE HEARS A FAMILIAR VOICE, DISTANT AND ECHOING...





AND ANOTHER VOICE, FIRM AND  
DISMAYED AS A MOUNTAIN...



I NOW PRONOUNCE  
YOU--



--'BATMAN AND  
WIFE!'



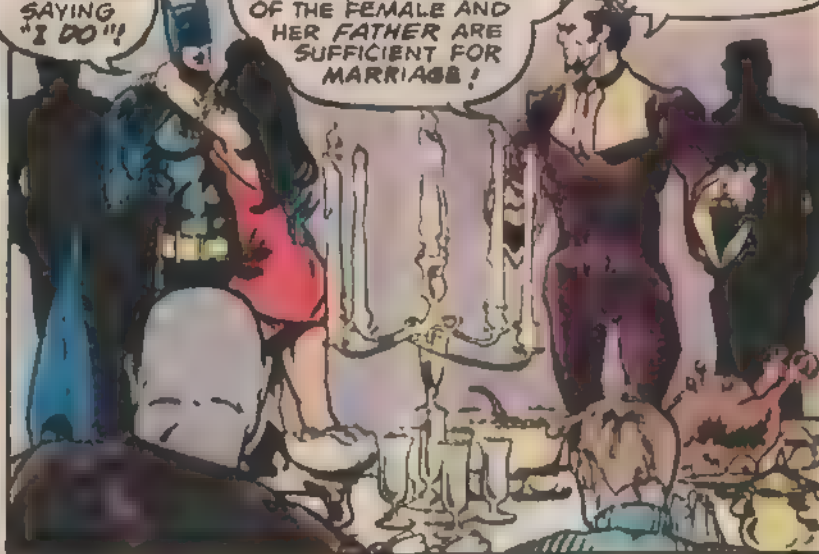
CONGRATULATIONS,  
DETECTIVE! YOU  
ARE THE HUSBAND  
OF THE LOVELIEST  
OF WOMEN--MY  
DAUGHTER,  
TALIA!



I DON'T  
REMEMBER  
SAYING  
"I DO!"

NOT NECESSARY! IN MY  
NATION, THE CONSENT  
OF THE FEMALE AND  
HER FATHER ARE  
SUFFICIENT FOR  
MARRIAGE!

THE WEDDING  
FEAST AWAITS!

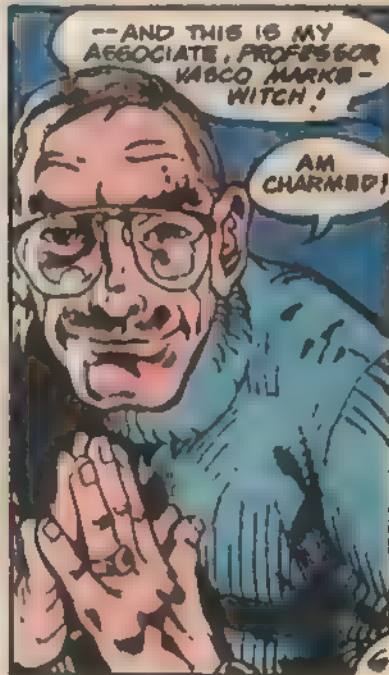


MEET YOUR  
GUESTS--  
MY AIDE  
LURK--

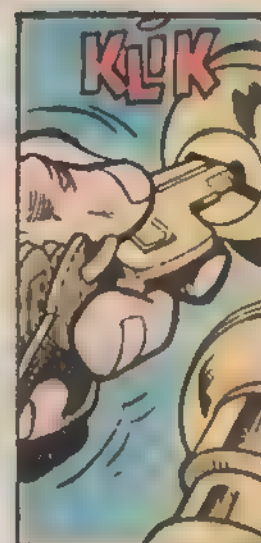
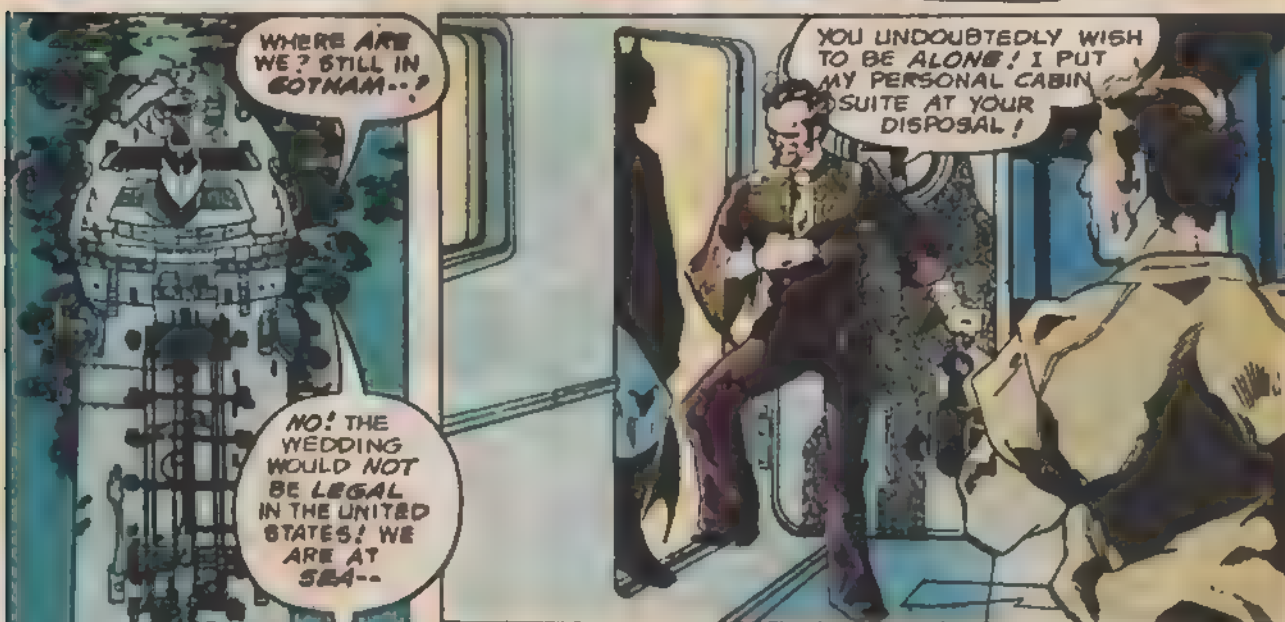


--AND THIS IS MY  
ASSOCIATE, PROFESSOR  
WASCO MARKS-  
WITCH!

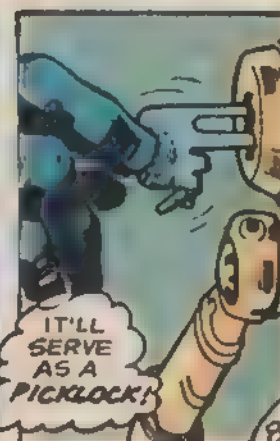
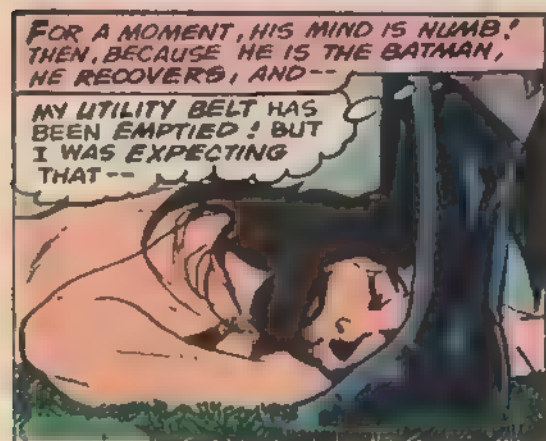
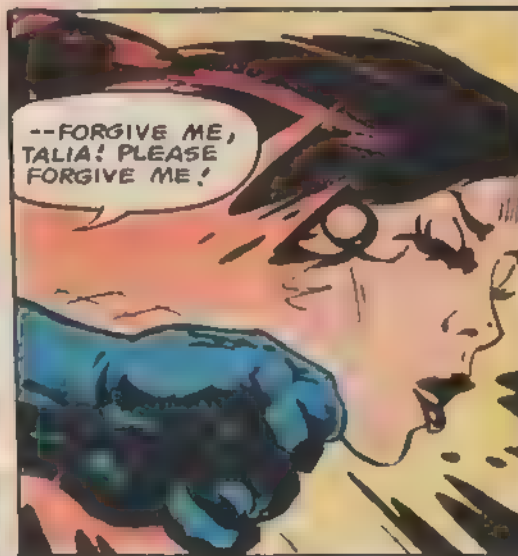
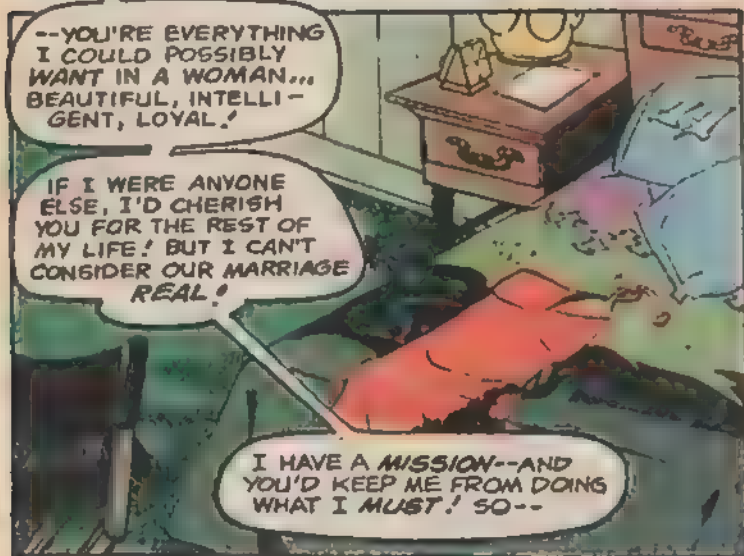
AM  
CHARMED!



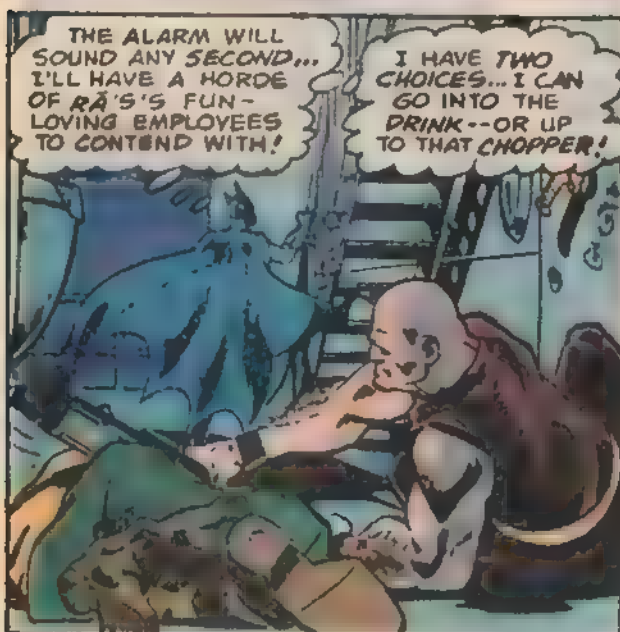
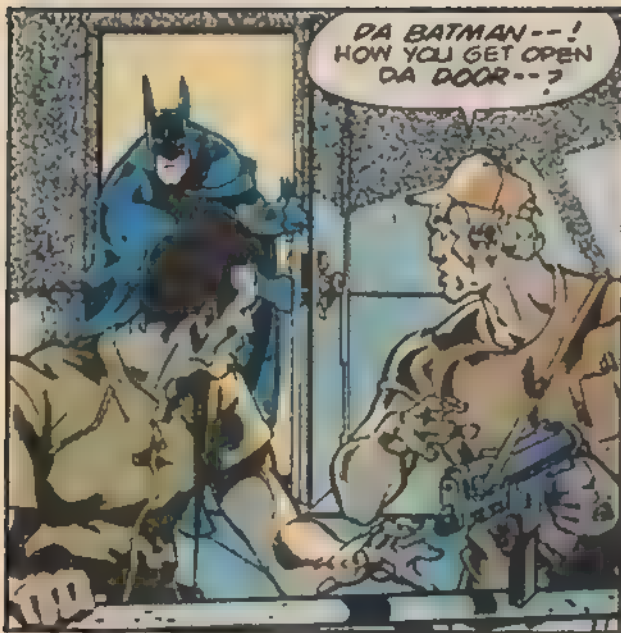




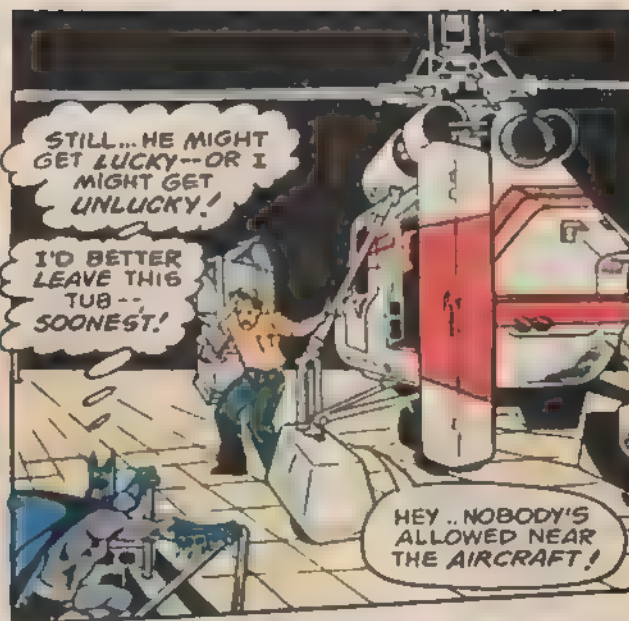
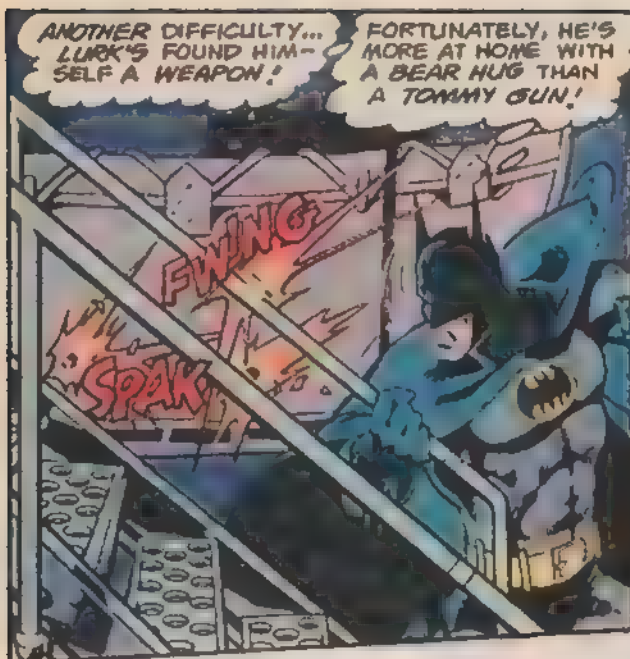














IF I HAD THE FAINTEST IDEA WHERE ON EARTH I AM, I'D BE IN FAIR SHAPE!

IN THE ATLANTIC, I'D GUESS... SOMEWHERE OFF THE COAST OF CANADA...



CHA-KWA

CHA-KWA

UH-OH... THE ENGINE'S STALLING! MUST'VE BEEN HIT BY ONE OF LURK'S SLUGS!

I DON'T DARE USE THE RADIO! I'D ONLY BRING RÅ'S!



CHA-KWA

QUEPP

I'LL SET HER DOWN... AND HOPE SHE STAYS AFLOAT TILL HELP ARRIVES!



MEANWHILE...

FULL SPEED! WE CAN BE IN GOTHAM IN SIXTEEN HOURS!

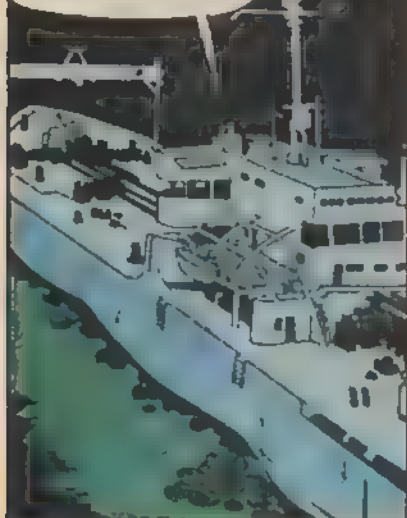
TONIGHT YOU DO GRAND COUP?

TONIGHT IT IS!

FATHER, I'M SORRY!



DO NOT BE! I AGREED TO THE WEDDING AS MUCH FOR MY SAKE AS FOR YOURS!



I HOPED TO USE YOU TO GAIN AN EDGE ON THE DETECTIVE--OR AT LEAST LESSEN HIS HUNTER'S INSTINCTS!



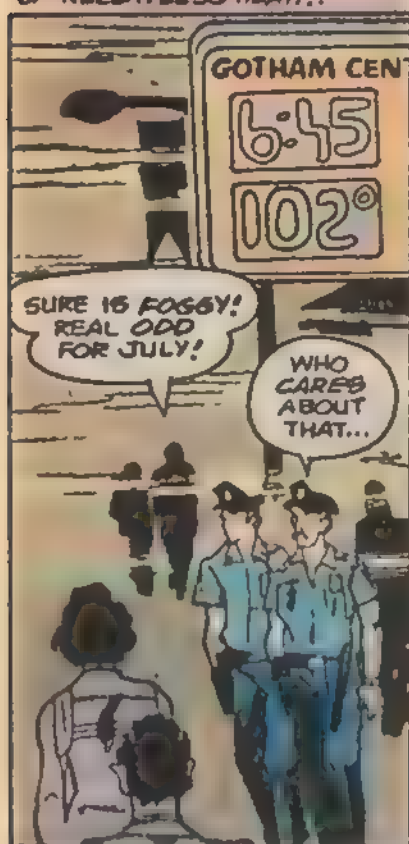
I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED IT IS HOPELESS! HE IS AS OBSESSED AS I AM!

TRULY A MAGNIFICENT FOE! I SHALL DESTROY HIM WITH THE GREATEST REGRET!

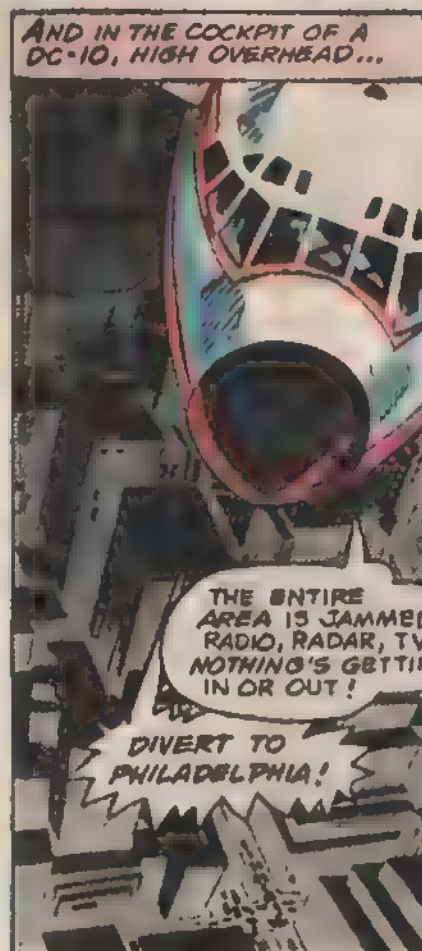
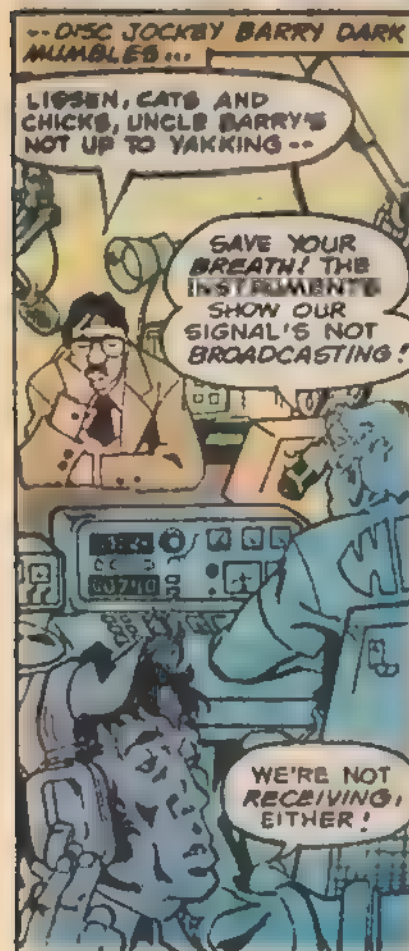




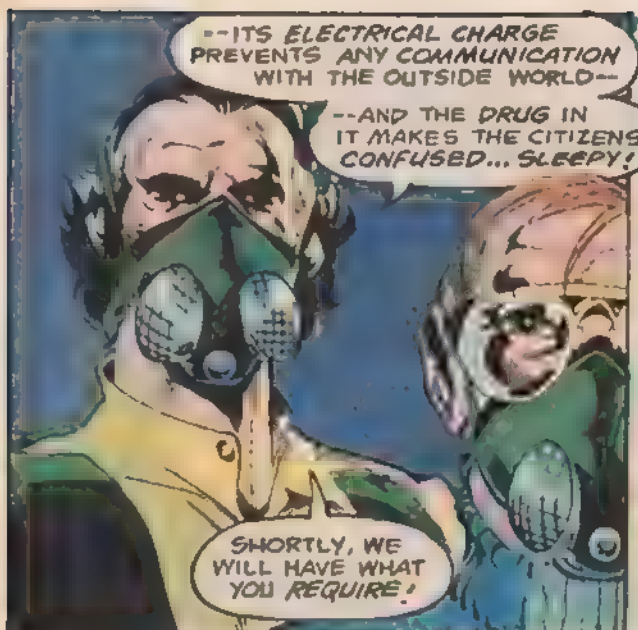
LAST NIGHT WAS HOT NOW  
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE! THE CITY  
WRITHES UNDER A BLANKET  
OF RELENTLESS HEAT...



BY SEVEN, THE STREETS ARE  
TOTALLY FILLED WITH  
SWIRLING MISTS... THE  
PEOPLE MOVE LIKE SLEEP-  
WALKING SHADOWS...







--ITS ELECTRICAL CHARGE  
PREVENTS ANY COMMUNICATION  
WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD--

--AND THE DRUG IN  
IT MAKES THE CITIZENS  
CONFUSED... SLEEPY!

SHORTLY, WE  
WILL HAVE WHAT  
YOU REQUIRE!



PROCEED!

PONDEROUSLY, THE MAMMOTH  
WRECKING BALL SWINGS AND  
WITH TWO TONS OF MOMENTUM  
SMASHES--



YA HEAR  
A NOISE,  
SARGE?

MEBBE...  
LET SOMEBODY  
ELSE WORRY!  
'M TIRED!



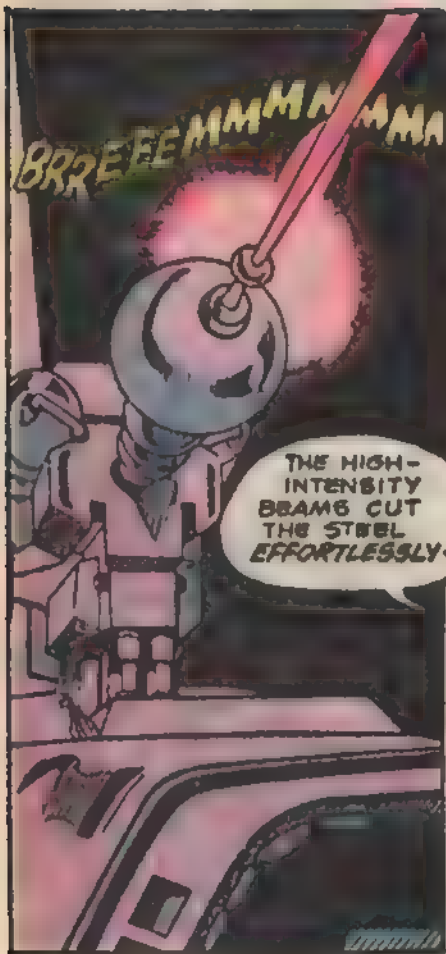
WITHIN FIFTEEN MINUTES...

PRECISELY ON SCHEDULE--  
THE BUILDINGS ARE  
DEMOLISHED AND THEIR  
VAULTS LAID BARE!

POSITION THE  
LASERS!







THE HIGH-INTENSITY BEAMS CUT THE STEEL EFFORTLESSLY--



--AND BEHOLD, PROFESSOR! THE GREATEST CONCENTRATION OF QUALITY DIAMONDS IN THE WORLD!

MY WORK IS ADVANCED BY YEARS! I AM SO GRATEFUL--

DO NOT BE! YOUR GOALS ARE MINE!

LEADER!



SOMEONE IS MOVING THE CARVE--

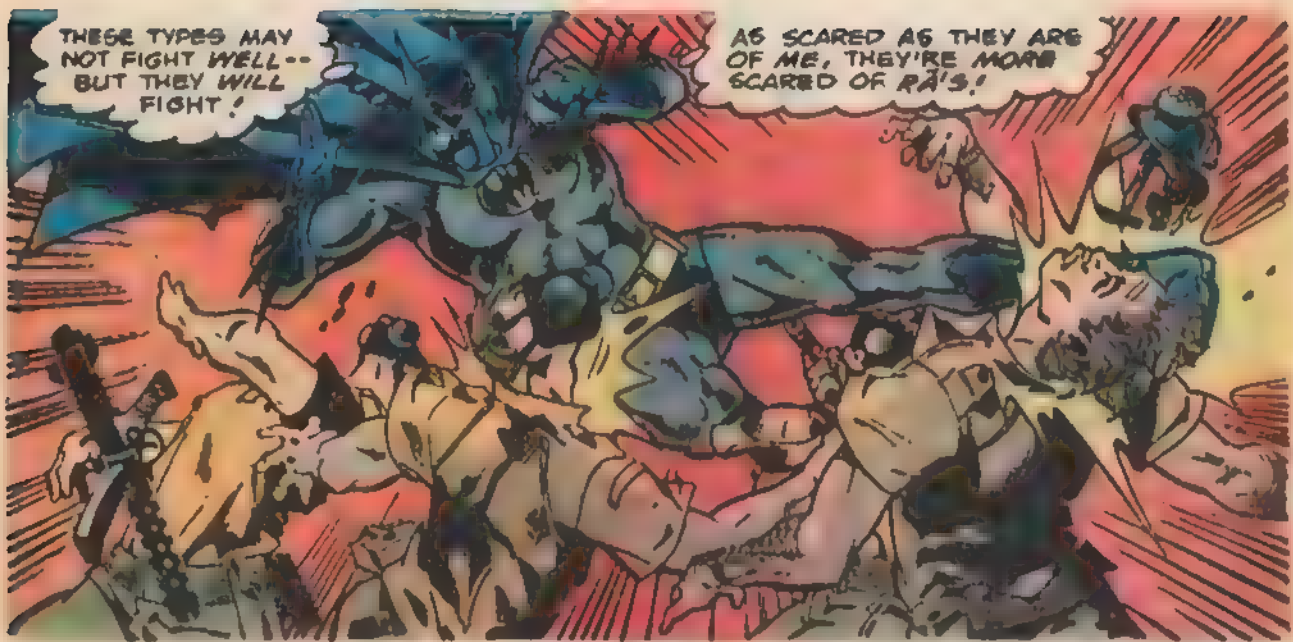


--HEADING STRAIGHT AT US--



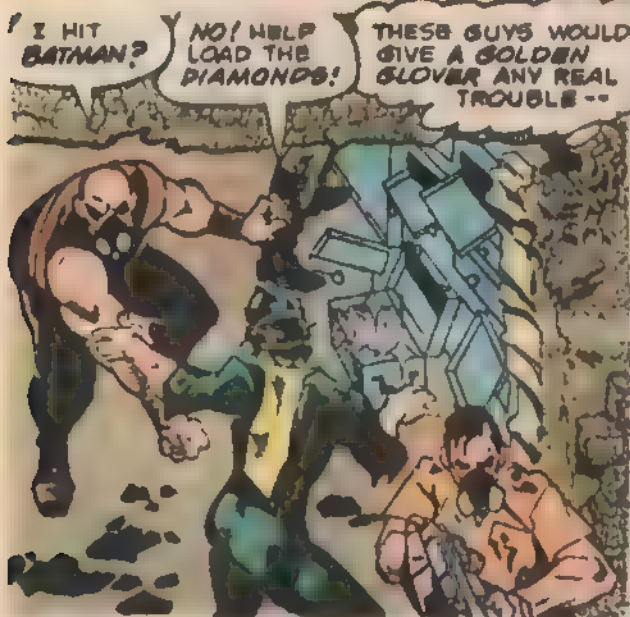
THE BATMAN--!!





THESE TYPES MAY NOT FIGHT WELL-- BUT THEY WILL FIGHT!

AS SCARED AS THEY ARE OF ME, THEY'RE MORE SCARED OF RA'S!



I HIT BATMAN?

NO! HELP LOAD THE DIAMONDS!

THESE GUYS WOULDN'T GIVE A GOLDEN GLOVER ANY REAL TROUBLE--

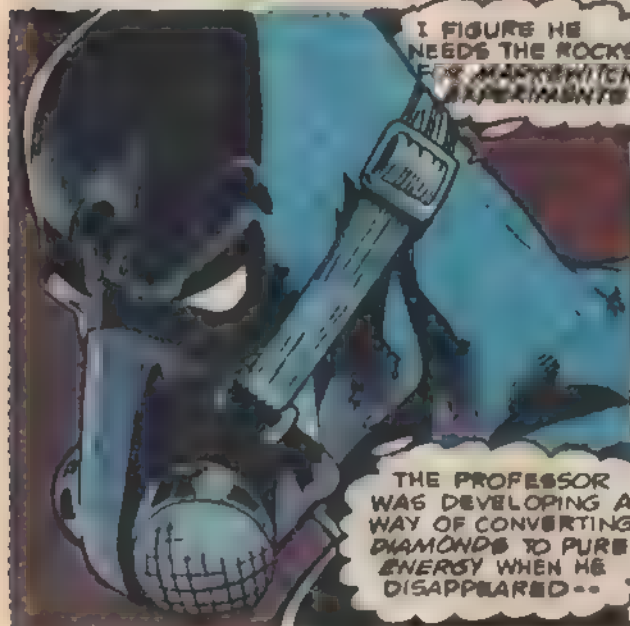


--BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM!

RA'S AND CREW ARE READY TO RUN--WITH MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF STONES!

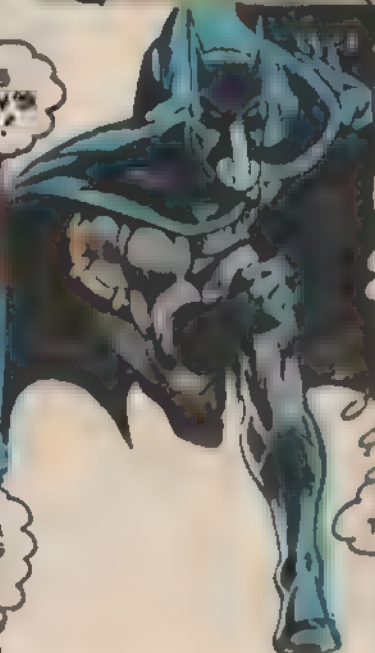
NOT THAT HE'S AFTER MONEY--HE'S ALREADY RICHER THAN FORT KNOX!

POCK



I FIGURE HE NEEDS THE ROCKS FOR MARKSWITCH'S EXPERIMENTS!

THE PROFESSOR WAS DEVELOPING A WAY OF CONVERTING DIAMONDS TO PURE ENERGY WHEN HE DISAPPEARED--

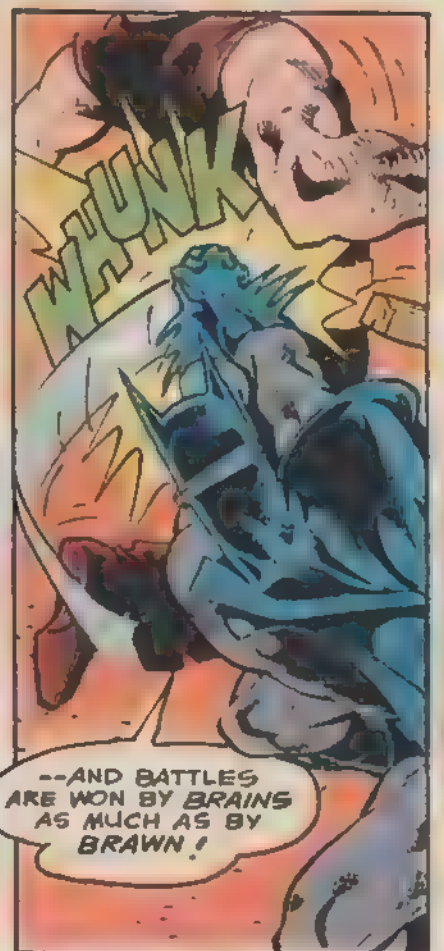
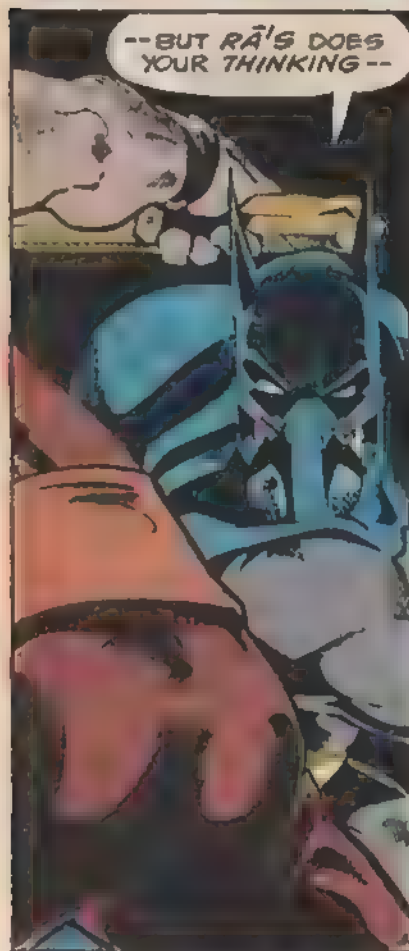
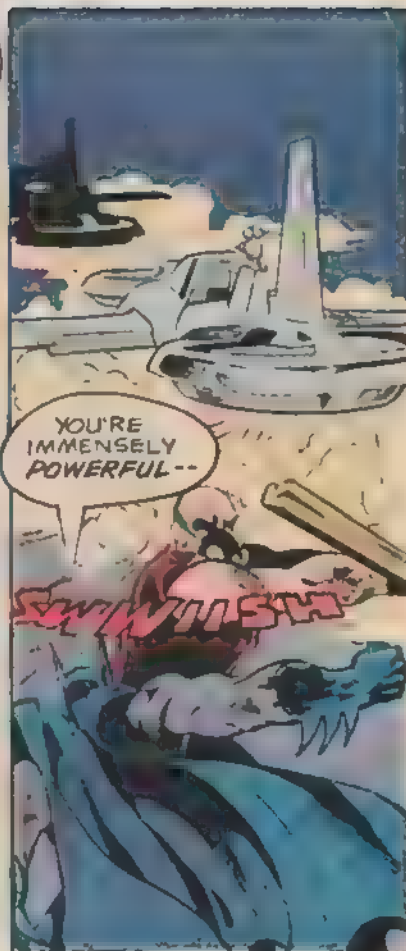
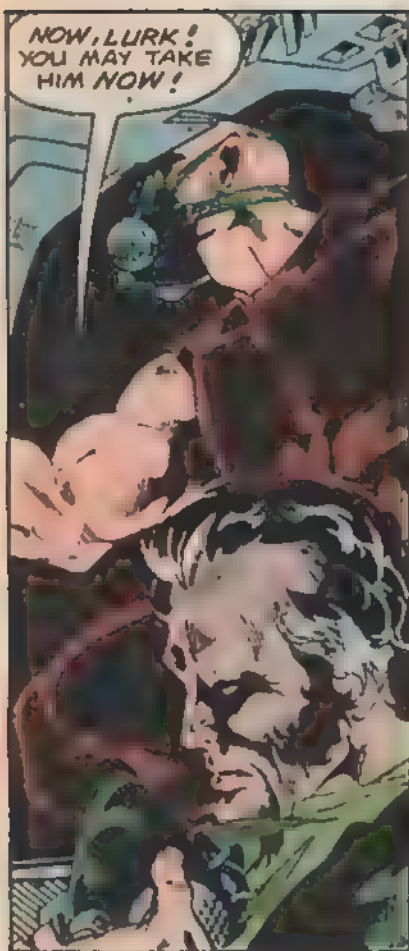


--AND HERE, ON THIS STREET, MOST OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEM MARKET'S TRADING IS DONE!

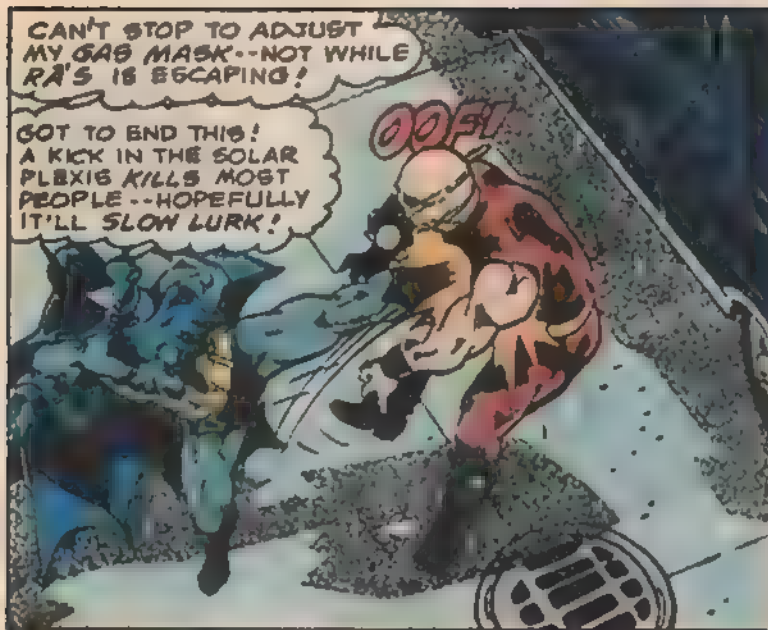
HAVING SEEN MARKSWITCH, IT WASN'T HARD TO GUESS RA'S TARGET!

HE'S STARTING THE NOVERCRAFT..









CAN'T STOP TO ADJUST MY GAS MASK--NOT WHILE RA'S IS ESCAPING!

GOT TO END THIS!  
A KICK IN THE SOLAR PLEXUS KILLS MOST PEOPLE--HOPEFULLY IT'LL SLOW LURK!

OOOF!

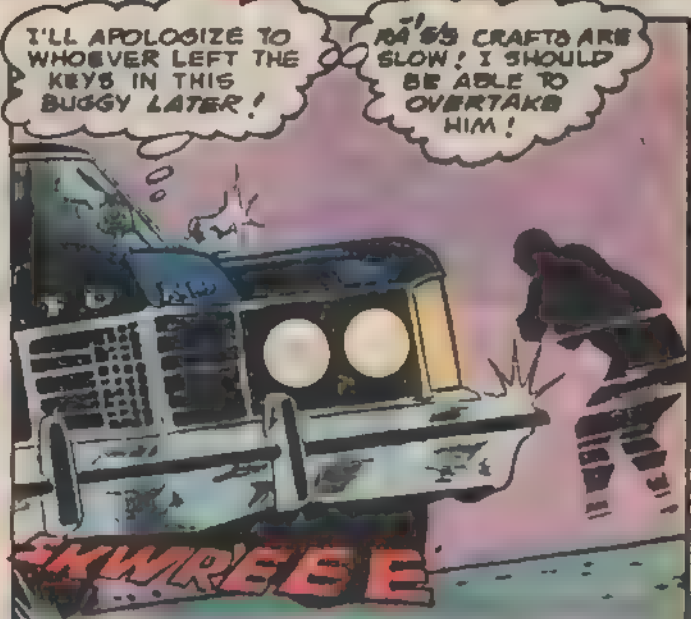


PUT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT INTO A SPEAR-HAND--!



FINALLY... HE'S HURT!  
ANOTHER COUPLE OF MINUTES AND I MIGHT ACTUALLY CATCH HIM!

BUT HE'S JUST A WHALE--AND MY QUARRY IS A SHARK!



I'LL APOLOGIZE TO WHOEVER LEFT THE KEYS IN THIS BUGGY LATER!

RA'S CRAFTS ARE SLOW! I SHOULD BE ABLE TO OVERTAKE HIM!

SKWREEE



HE'S OUTSMARTED HIMSELF! THE EFFECTS OF THE GAS HAVE CAUSED A TRAFFIC JAM--AND HE'S STUCK IN THE MIDDLE!





NO...I'M OUTSMARTED!  
THE TRAFFIC JAM WAS  
PART OF HIS PLAN--!

THE HOVERCRAFTS ARE  
GOING ABOVE IT...RIDING  
ON AN AIR CUSHION!



BY ELEVEN, A STRONG BREEZE SWEEPS FROM THE OCEAN,  
DISSIPATING THE FUMES, AND THE MOON REAPPEARS IN  
THE INKY SKY...

AT A PIER  
SOUTH OF  
GOTHAM--

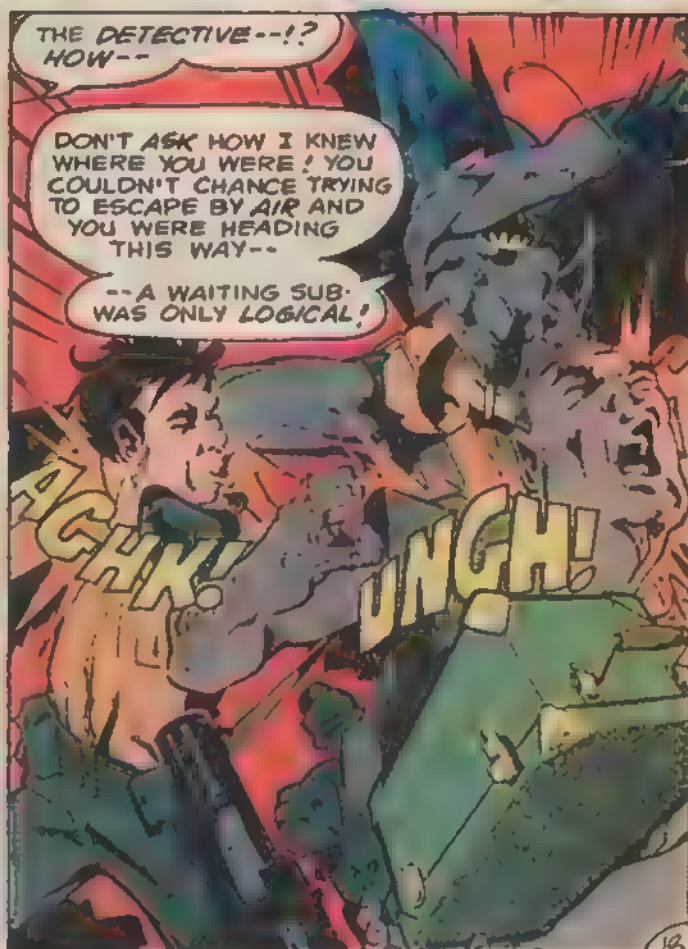
HURRY!



SOON, THE POLICE  
WILL RECOVER! WE  
MUST HAVE THE  
SUBMARINE LOADED  
AND BE UNDER WAY  
BEFORE THEY  
ORGANIZE!

WE CAN BE AT  
THE TANKER BY  
SUNRISE...

YOU'LL BE  
NOWHERE--



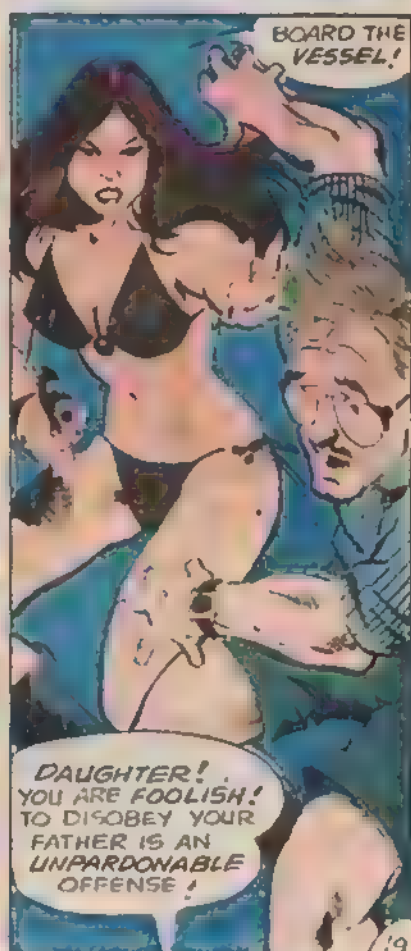
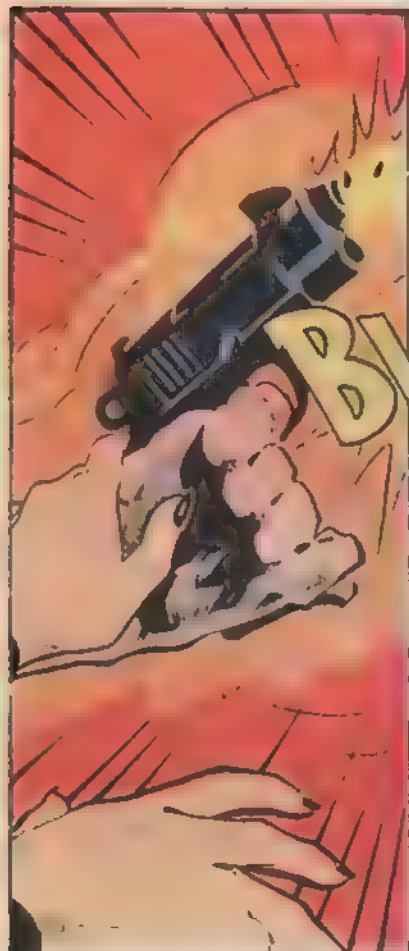
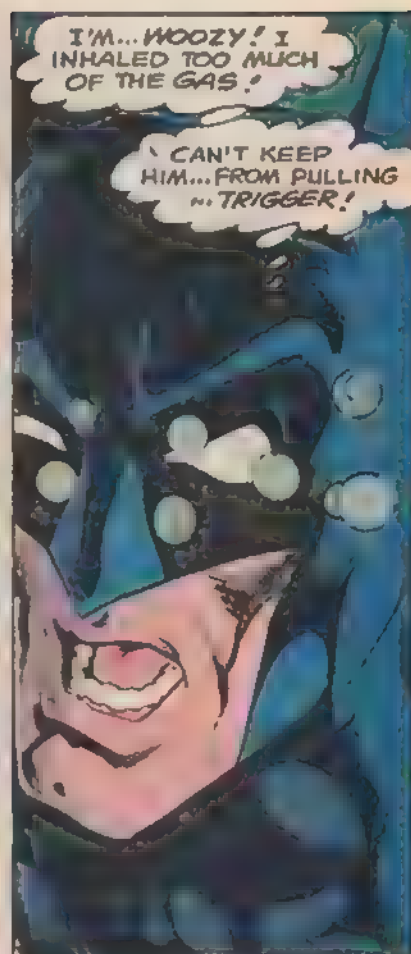
THE DETECTIVE--!?  
HOW--

DON'T ASK HOW I KNEW  
WHERE YOU WERE! YOU  
COULDN'T CHANCE TRYING  
TO ESCAPE BY AIR AND  
YOU WERE HEADING  
THIS WAY--

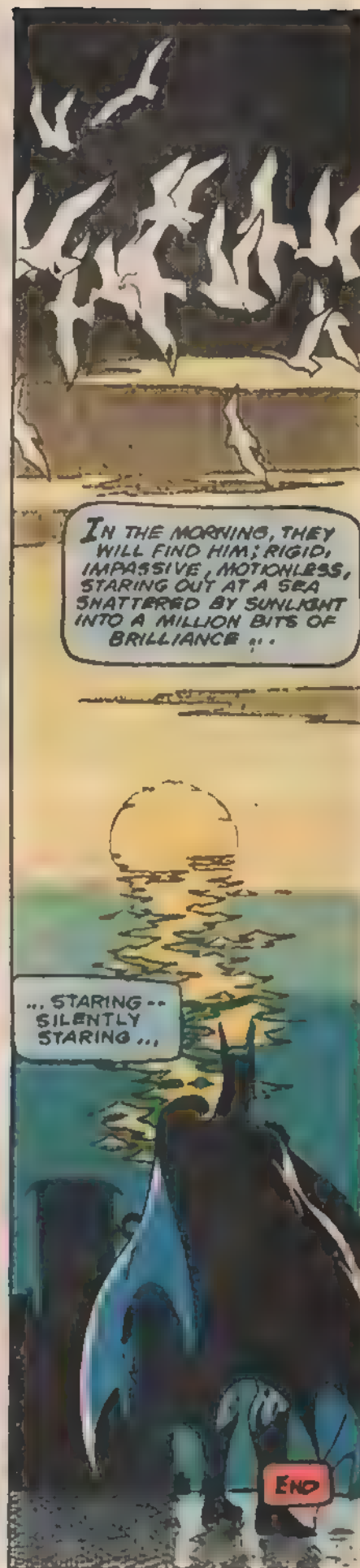
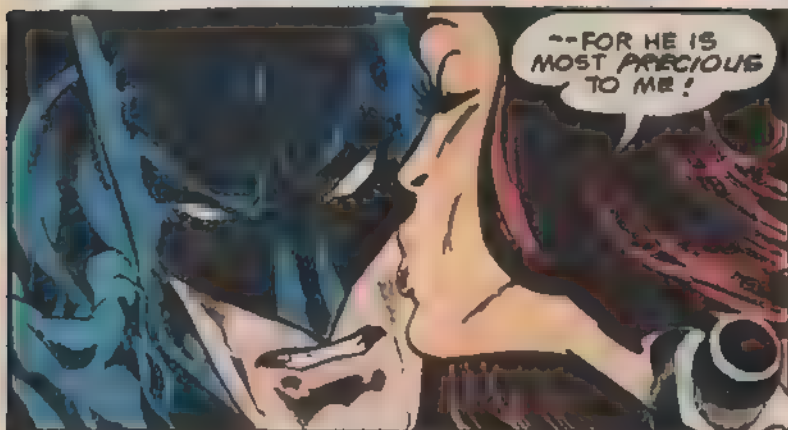
--A WAITING SUB-  
WAS ONLY LOGICAL!

ACHK!  
UNGH!











68  
PAGES

NO  
ADS  
FROM  
COVER  
TO  
COVER!

5 ALL-NEW THRILLERS!

FEATURING  
THE ENTIRE **BATMAN FAMILY!**

SEPTEMBER 1979  
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BATMAN STARRING IN  
**DETECTIVE**  
COMICS

WHOSE  
DEATH  
CAUSES  
BATMAN  
TO SWEAR  
"THE VENGEANCE  
VOW"?

plus:

BATGIRL  
ROBIN  
and  
MAN-BAT  
IN THEIR  
OWN  
FULL-LENGTH  
FEATURES!

AND A  
BONUS  
STORY!

THE DEMON'S  
LAST  
BATTLE!





ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...

**BATMAN**

CREATED BY

BOB  
KANE

IT IS NOT QUIET ON THESE CIRCUS GROUNDS... THIS SOUTHWESTERN NIGHT ON THE EDGE OF WINTER! NO, THERE IS THE DISTANT HOWL OF PRAIRIE ANIMALS, THE FAINT RATTLE OF TENT RIGGINGS, THE CONSTANT WHISPER OF THE WINDS...

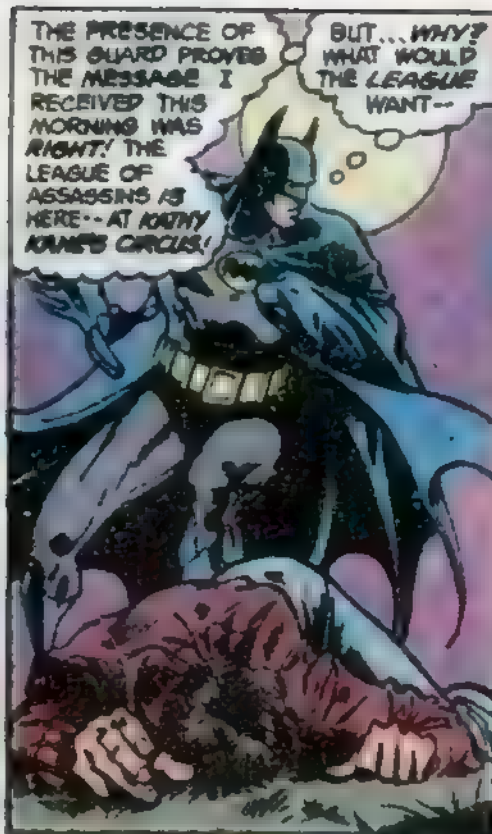
BUT THE BATMAN MAKES NO SOUND AS HE GLIDES TO HIS QUARRY AND STRIKES, INSTANTLY PLUNGING THE MAN INTO A SENSELESS SLEEP...

THUS, IT BEGINS... A STRUGGLE AGAINST THE MOST MERCILESS KILLERS THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN--A BATTLE WHERE FOE BECOMES FRIEND AND DEATH IS A CONSTANT COMPANION...

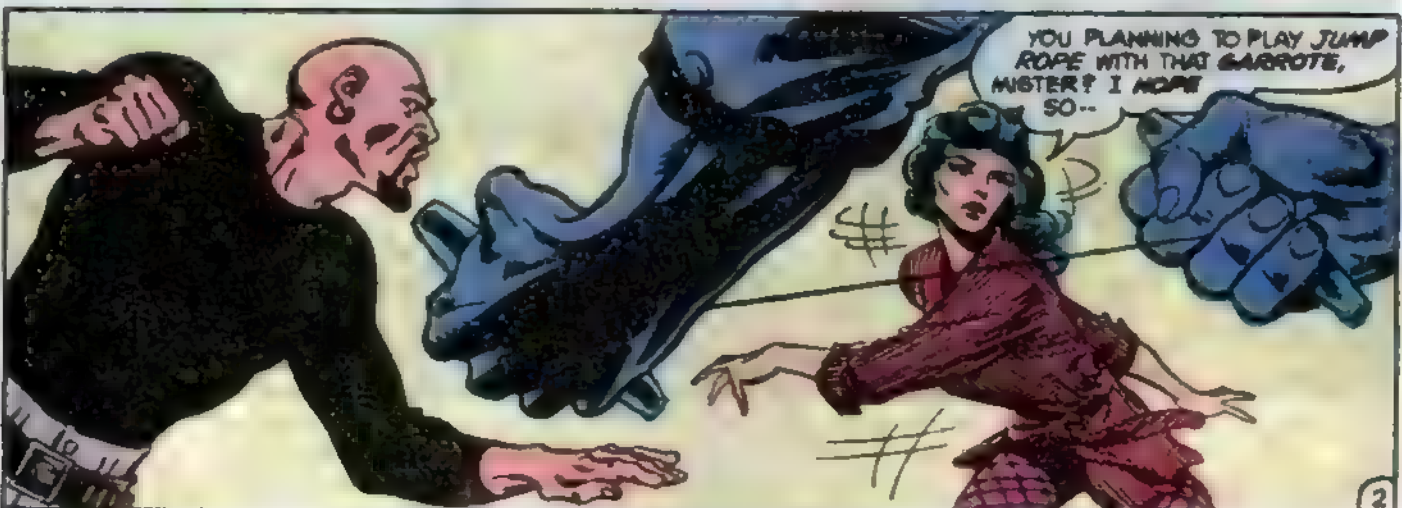


STORY - DENNY O'NEIL • ART - DON NEWTON & DAN ADKINS • LETTERER - BEN ODA  
COLORIST - ADRIENNE ROY • EDITOR - PAUL LEVITZ  
SPECIAL THANKS TO SENSEI RICHARD HILL FOR MARTIAL ARTS ADVICE.

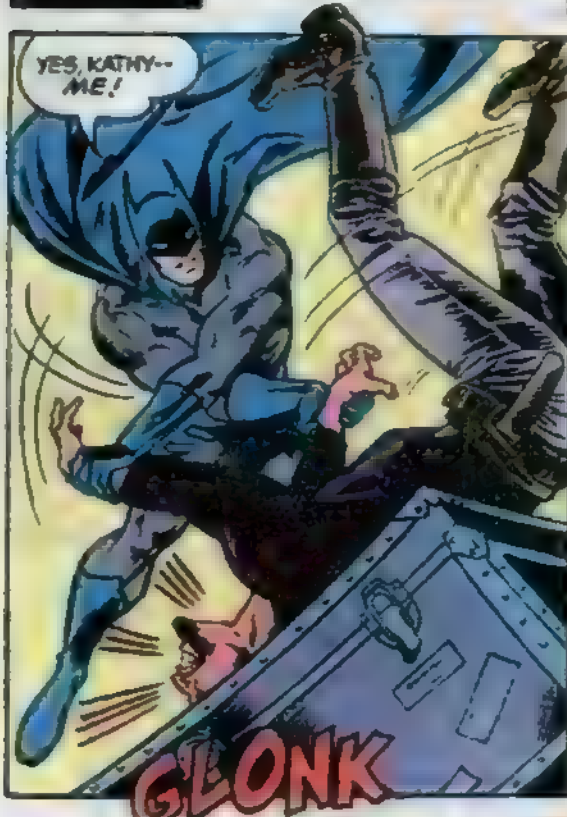
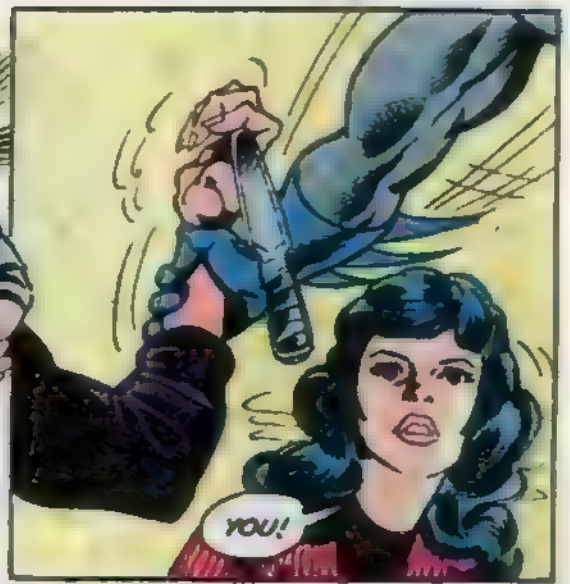




BUT... WHY? WHAT WOULD THE LEAGUE WANT--









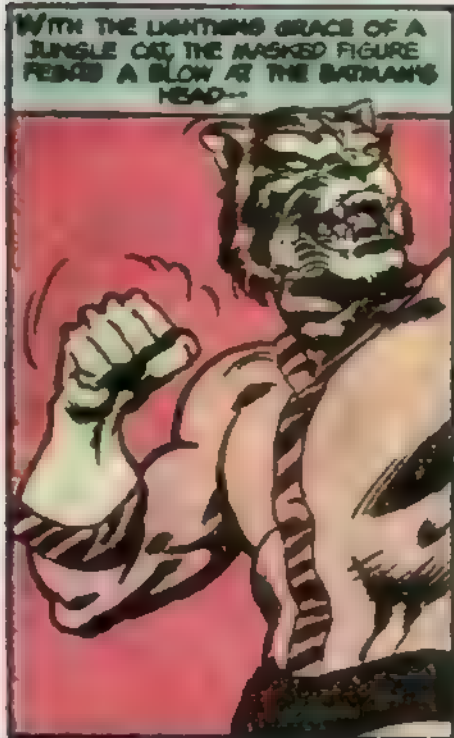


WHO'S THIS BRIGHT EYES?

I AM CALLED BEN TUR... THE BRONZE TIGER!

WE HAVE COME FOR THE WOMAN!

YOU'LL HAVE TO GET PAST ME FIRST!



WITH THE LIGHTNING GRACE OF A JUNGLE CAT, THE MASKED FIGURE FEELS A BLOW AT THE BATMAN'S HEAD--



--ONLY TO HAVE IT INSTANTLY BLOCKED!

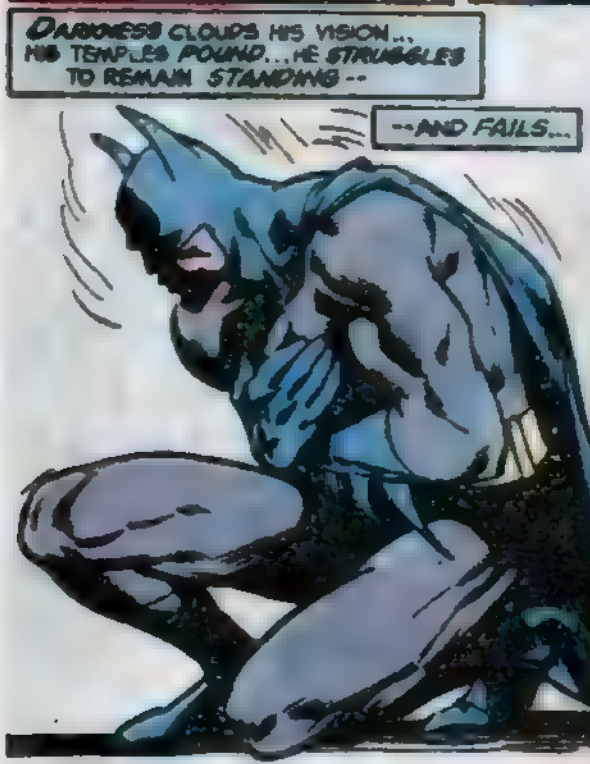
BAP



THEN...THE MOMENT THAT CHANGES A SCORE OF LIVES--

--A SUDDEN STUNNING KICK--

THOOD



DARKNESS CLOUDS HIS VISION... HIS TEMPLES POUND... HE STRUGGLES TO REMAIN STANDING --

--AND FAILS...



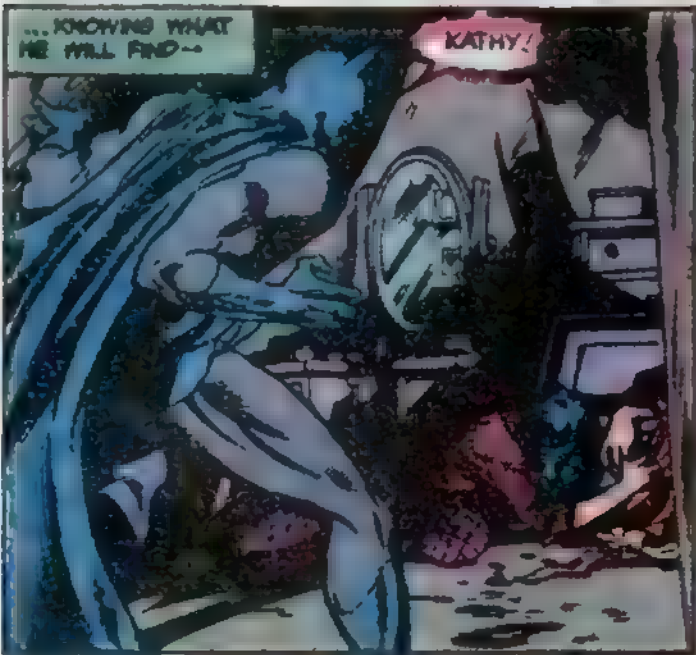
AS AN AGONY-FILLED BLACKNESS CLAIMS HIM, HE SEES THE RISE AND FALL OF SHINING STEEL --



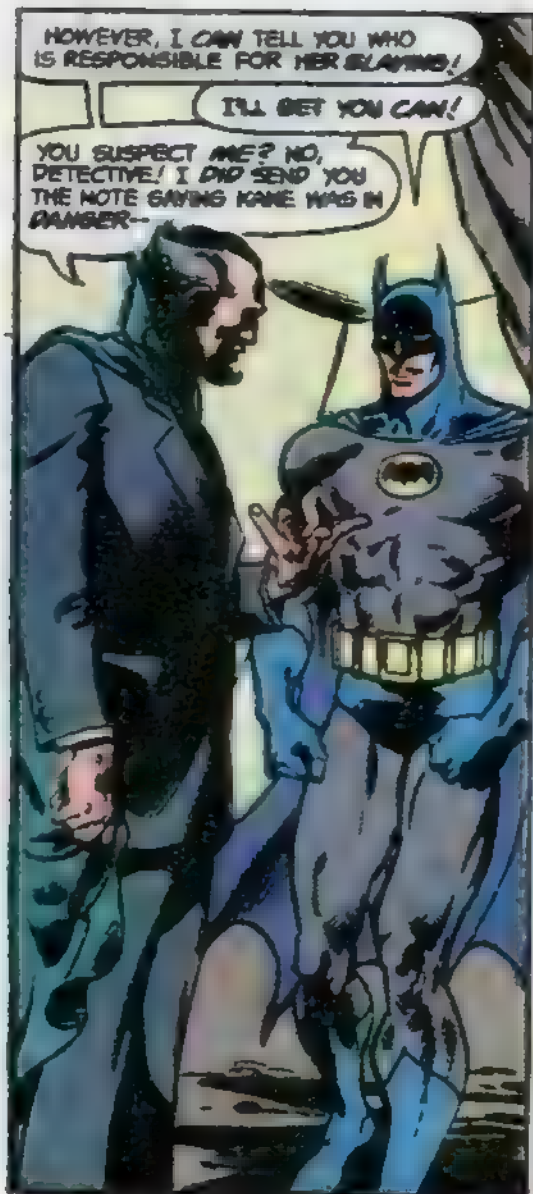
AND AS IF FROM A GREAT DISTANCE HE HEARS KATO'S CRY...



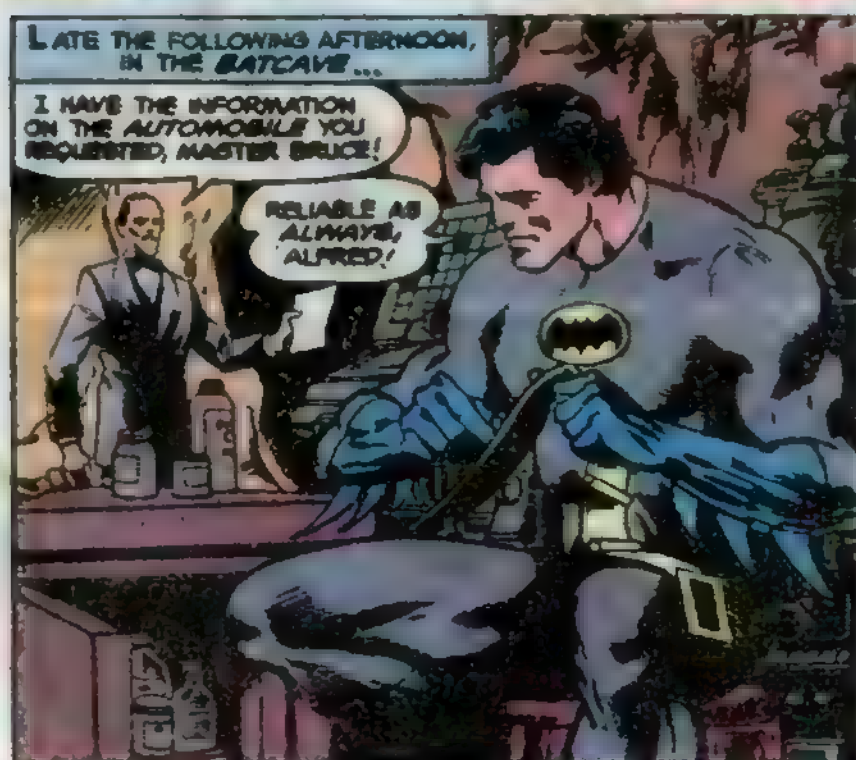
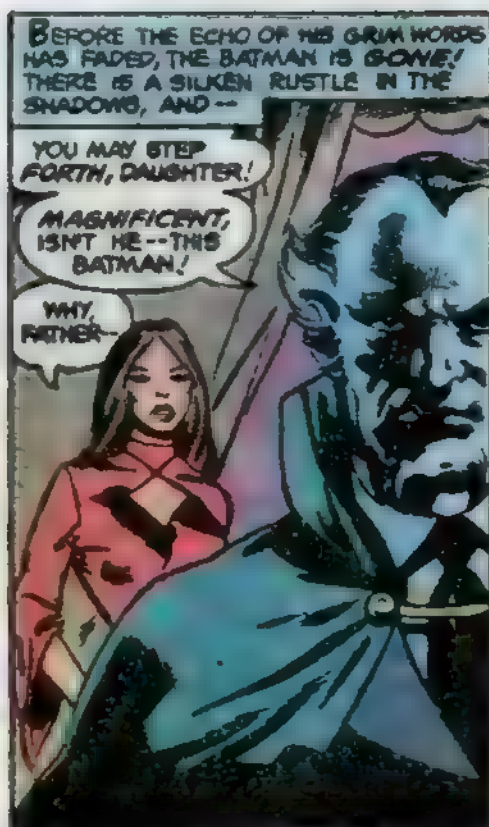
IT IS PROBABLY ONLY MINUTES BEFORE HE RECOVERS! HIS TRAINED EYE IMMEDIATELY READS THE MEANING OF THE DARK STAINS IN THE DUST AND, WITH A SICK DREAD, HE FOLLOWS THEIR TRAIL...



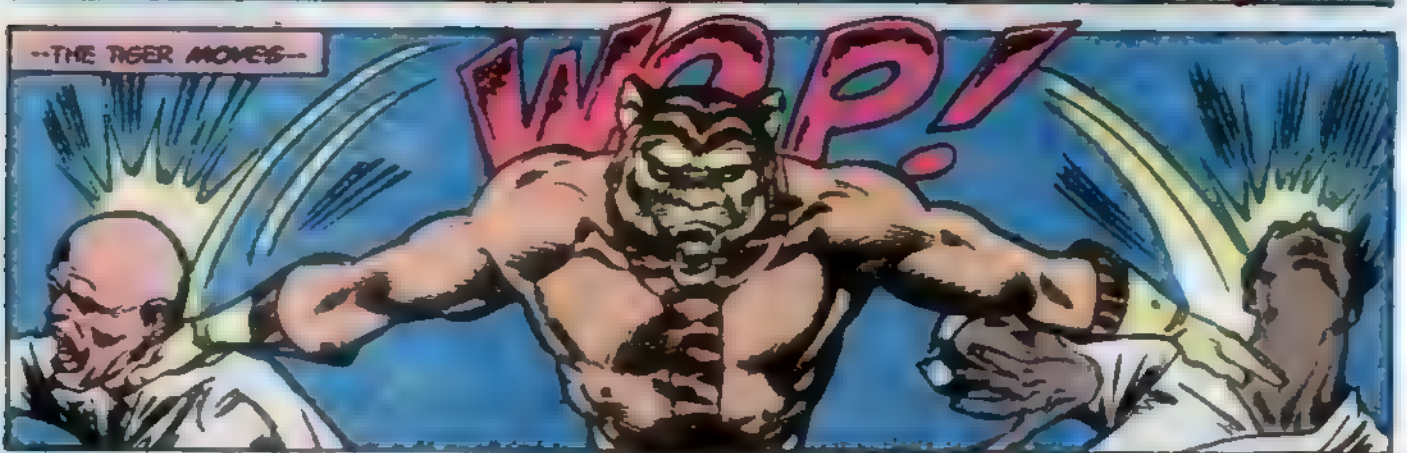
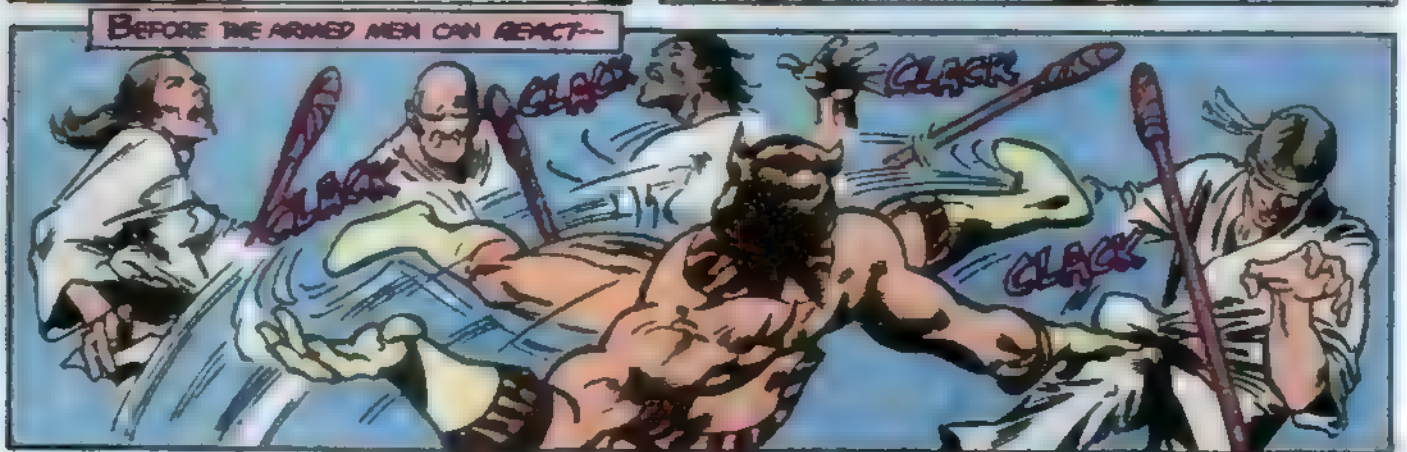
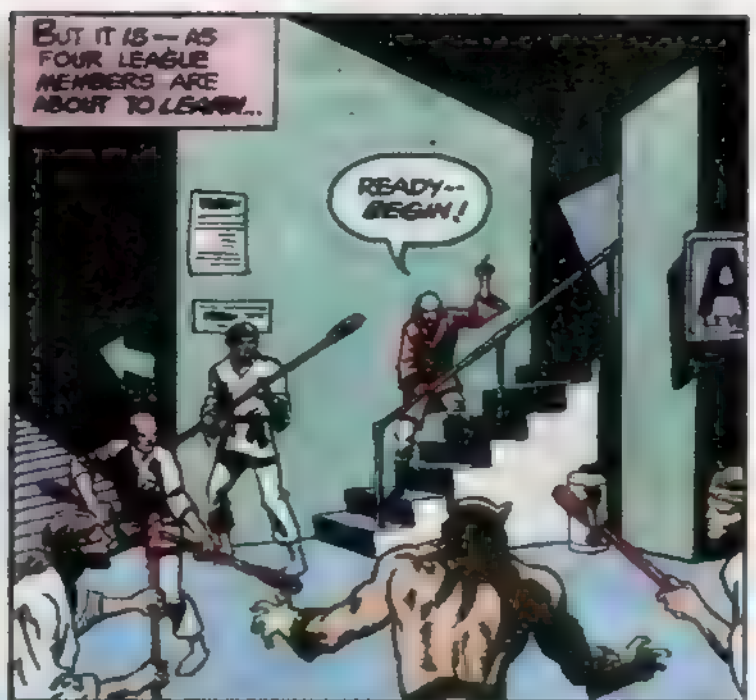
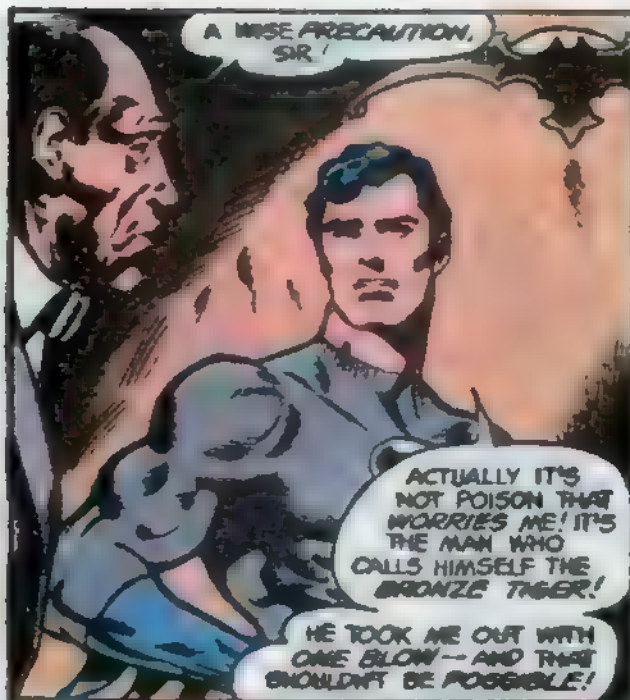




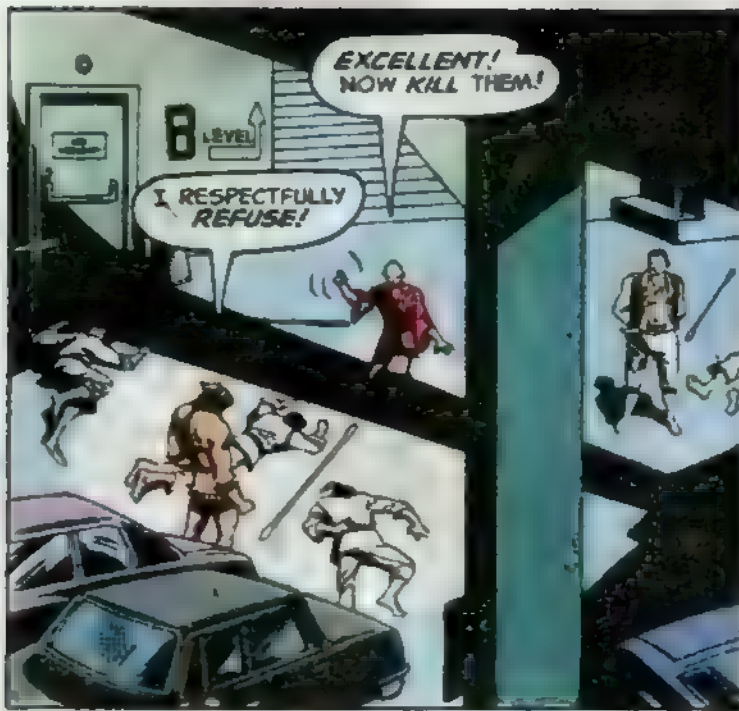






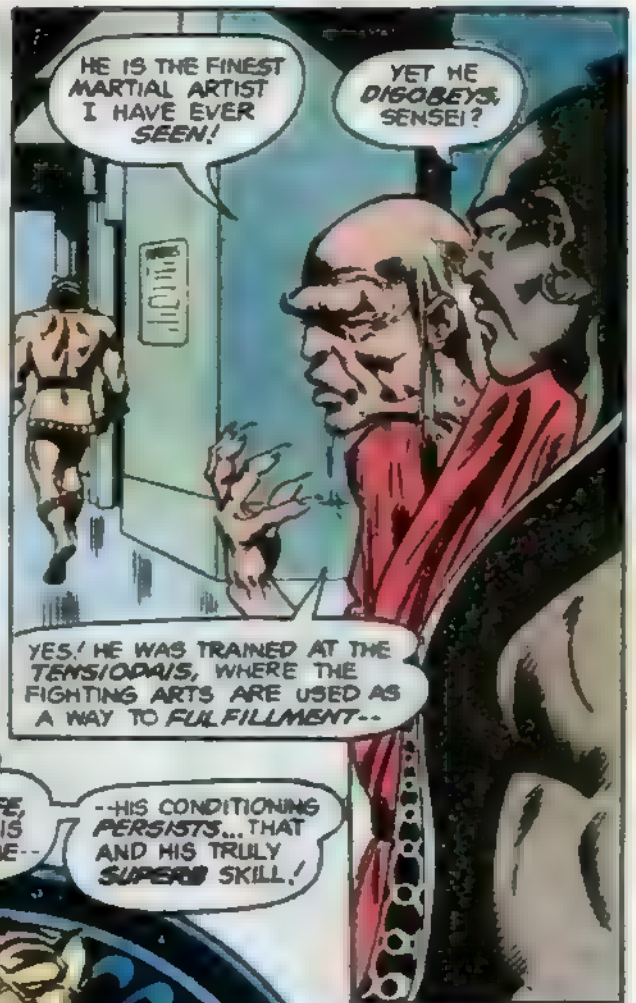






EXCELLENT!  
NOW KILL THEM!

I RESPECTFULLY  
REFUSE!



HE IS THE FINEST  
MARTIAL ARTIST  
I HAVE EVER  
SEEN!

YET HE  
DISOBEYS  
SENSEI?

YES! HE WAS TRAINED AT THE  
TENSJODAI'S, WHERE THE  
FIGHTING ARTS ARE USED AS  
A WAY TO FULFILLMENT--



--NOT AS WE USE THEM...  
TO CREATE AND INFLECT  
EXQUISITE DEATH!

HE IS DEEPLY  
CONDITIONED  
NOT TO TAKE LIFE,  
AND ALTHOUGH HIS  
MEMORY IS GONE--

--HIS CONDITIONING  
PERSISTS... THAT  
AND HIS TRULY  
SUPERB SKILL!



HOWEVER, HAVE NO FEAR!  
I SHALL TRIUMPH! IN THE  
FINAL RECKONING, HE WILL  
BE MY CREATURE--TOTALLY!

BODY AND SOUL,  
HE WILL BE MINE!

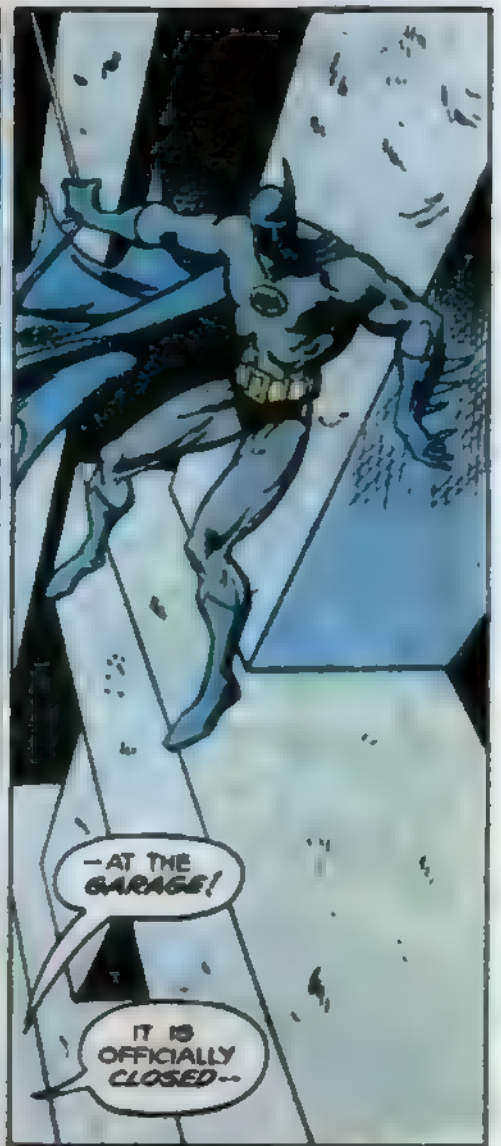


IN THE EVENT THAT ANYONE HAS BEEN WONDERING WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO BEN TURNER, PARTNER  
AND FRIEND OF RICHARD DRAGON, KUNG FU FIGHTER...NOW YOU KNOW!





SENSE!  
SOMEONE  
APPROACHES  
ABOVE--



--AT THE  
GARAGE!

IT IS  
OFFICIALLY  
CLOSED--



--SO THE INTRUDER IS EITHER A  
BURGLAR, ONE OF RA'S AL  
GHUL'S MEN OR THE BATMAN!

WHATEVER IT  
IS, THE DOGS  
SHOULD BE ABLE  
TO PUT AN END  
TO HIM!

SNARLING, SLAVERING  
INGANE WITH BLOOD  
LUST, THE BEASTS BURST  
INTO A LONG CORRIDOR--

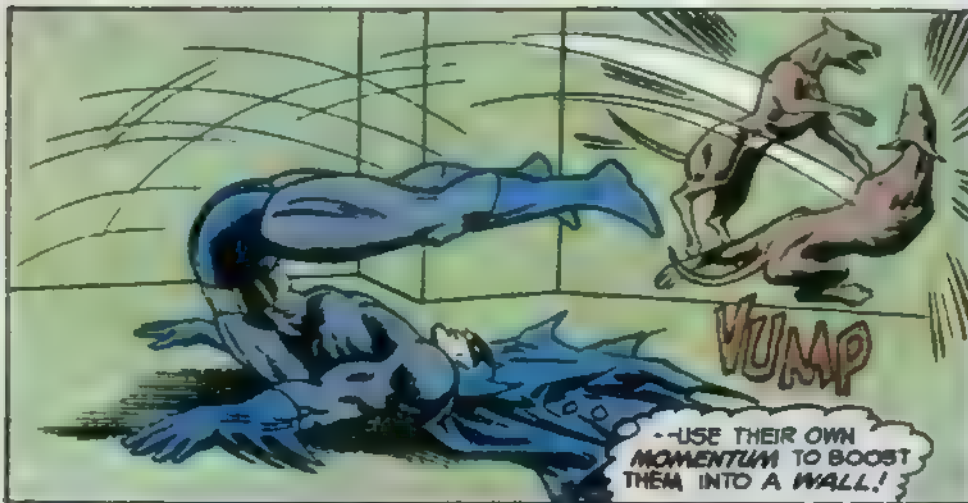
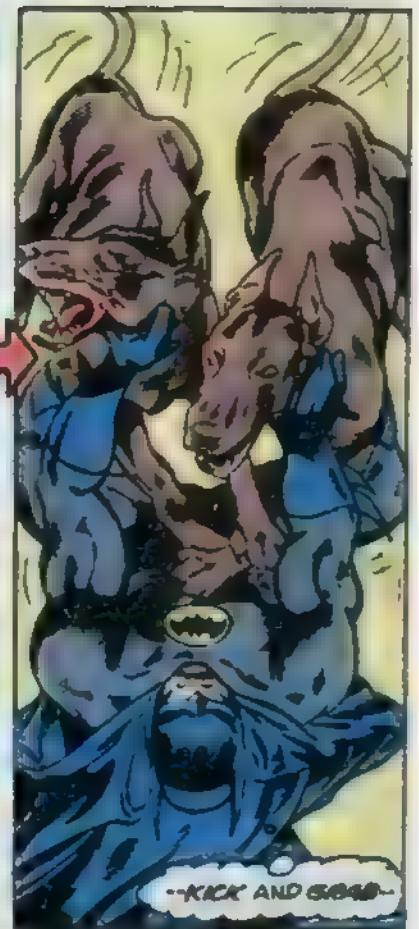
--AND EMERGE A SCANT  
DOZEN YARDS FROM THE  
CAPED CRUSADER...

A SURPRISE--  
PROBABLY THE  
FIRST OF MANY!

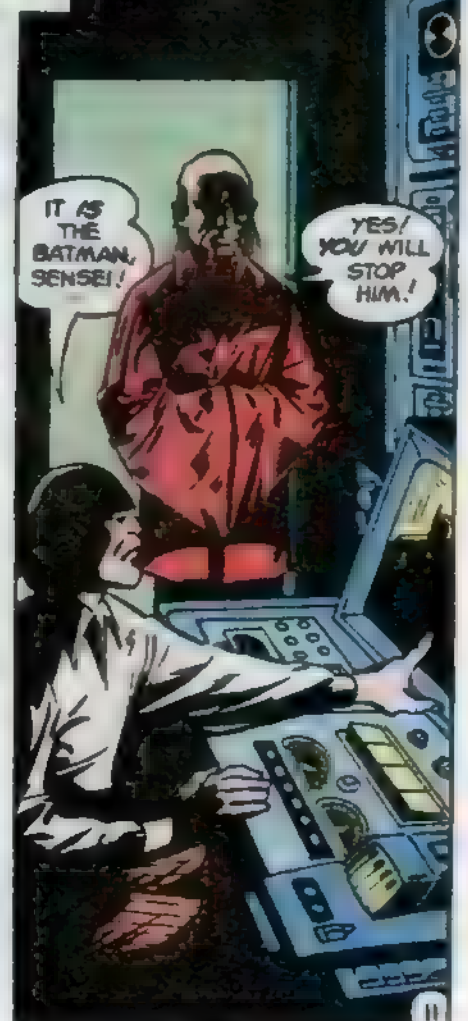
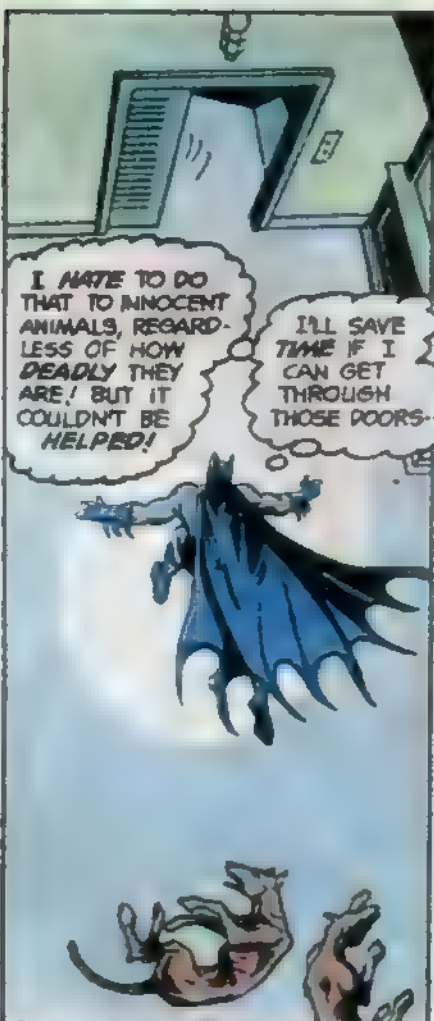
TRAINED DOBERMANS  
...FAR WORSE THAN  
HUMAN ASSAILANTS!

THERE'S ONLY ONE  
RELIABLE TECHNIQUE  
FOR HANDLING  
THEM--

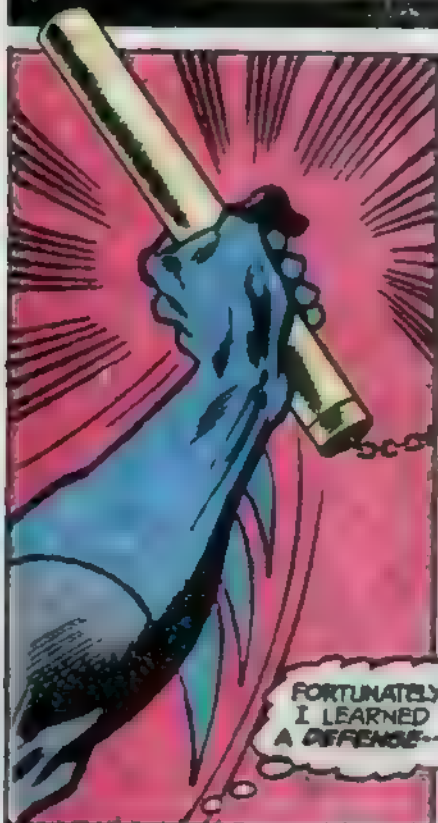
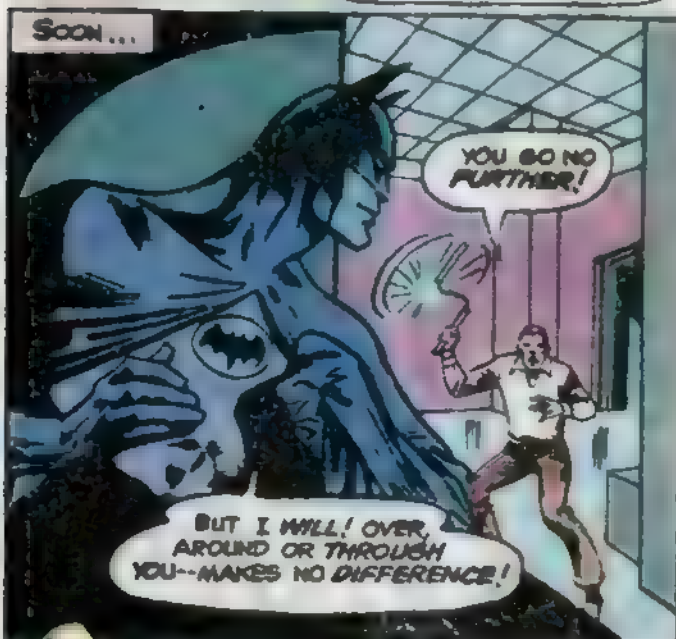




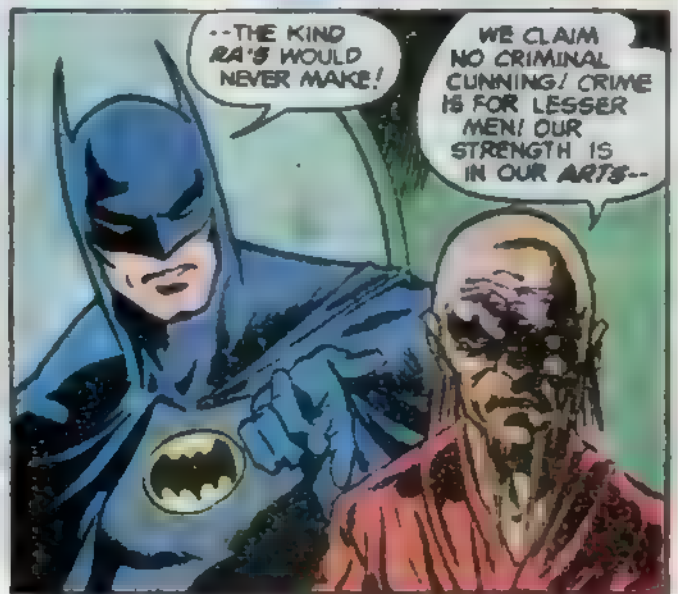
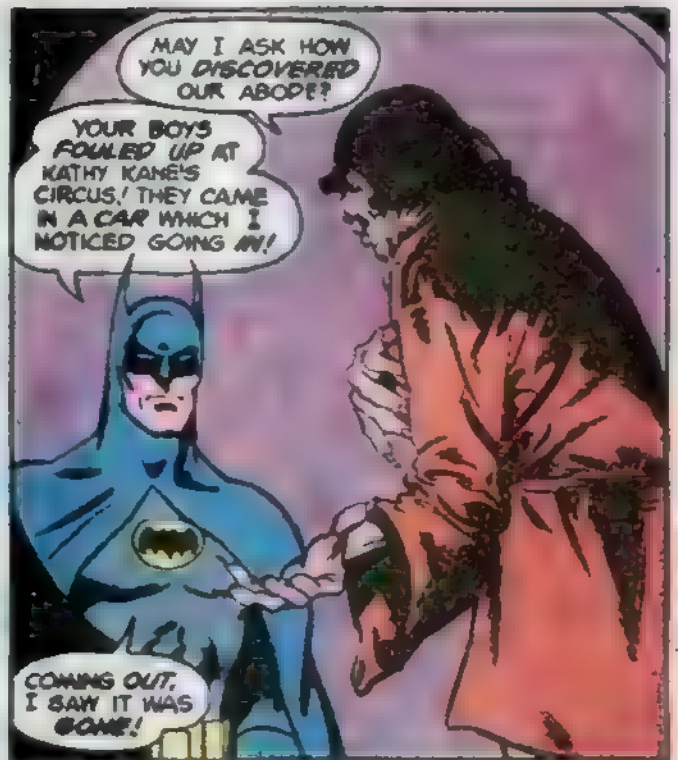
IN THE CHAMBER BELOW ..



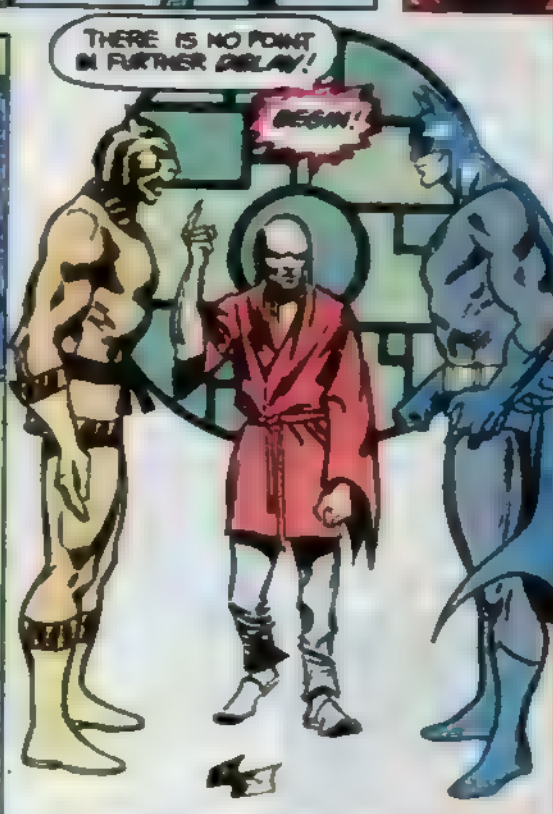
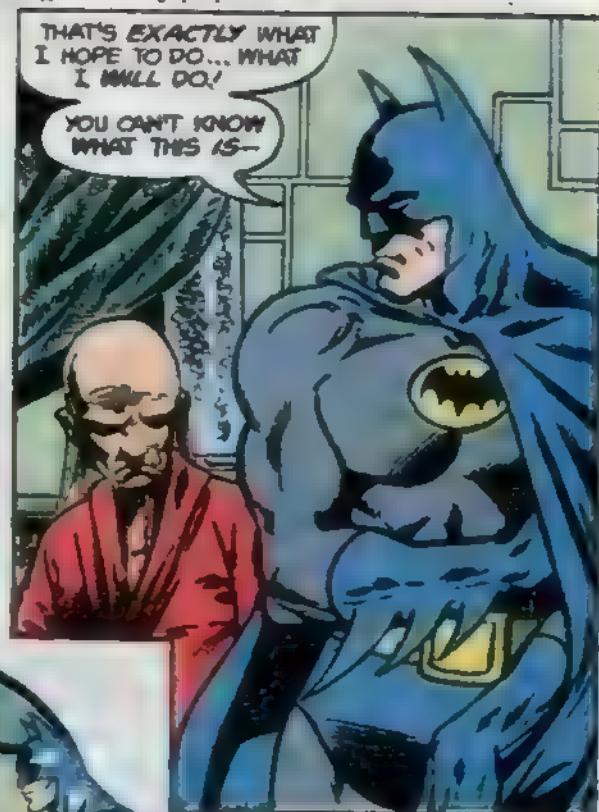








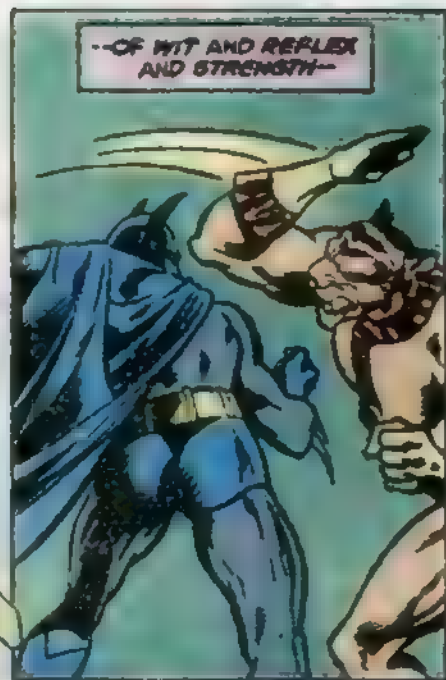
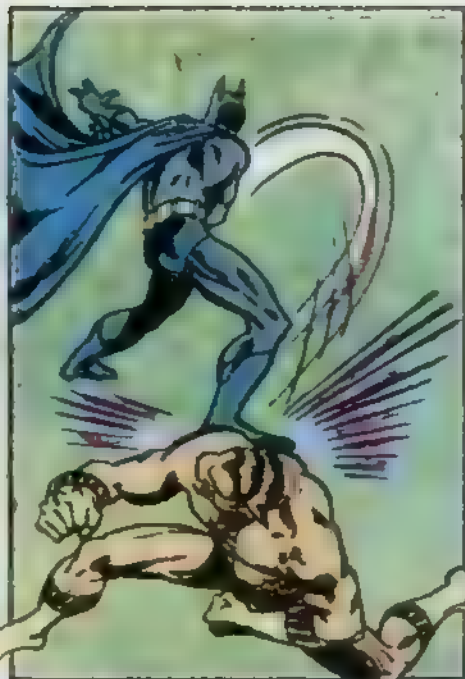




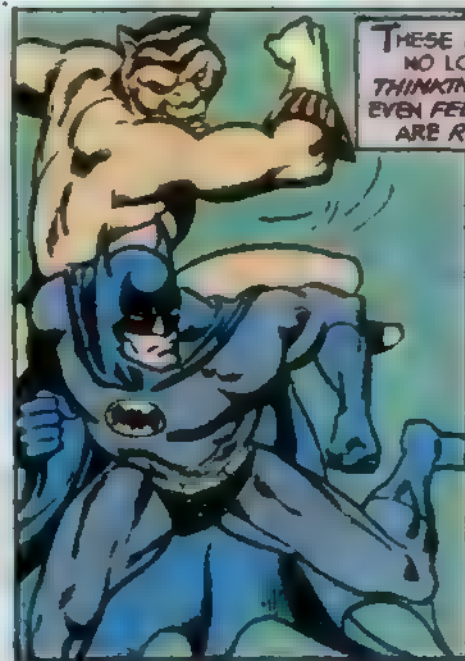
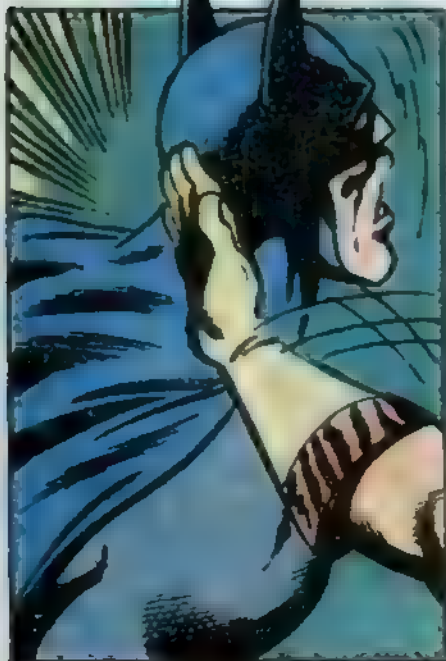




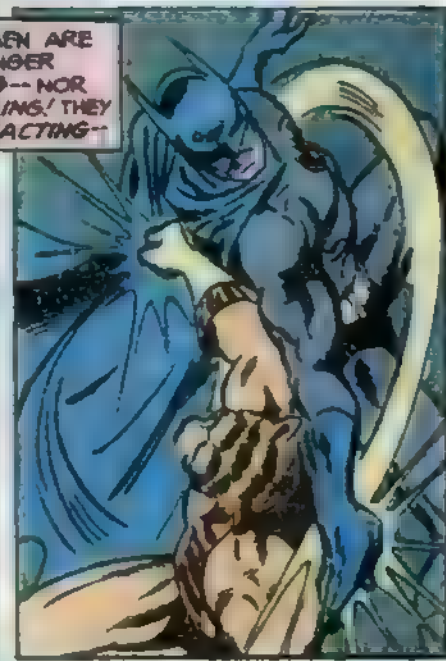
A TEST... OF  
TRAINING, SKILL  
AND IMMENSE  
DETERMINATION--



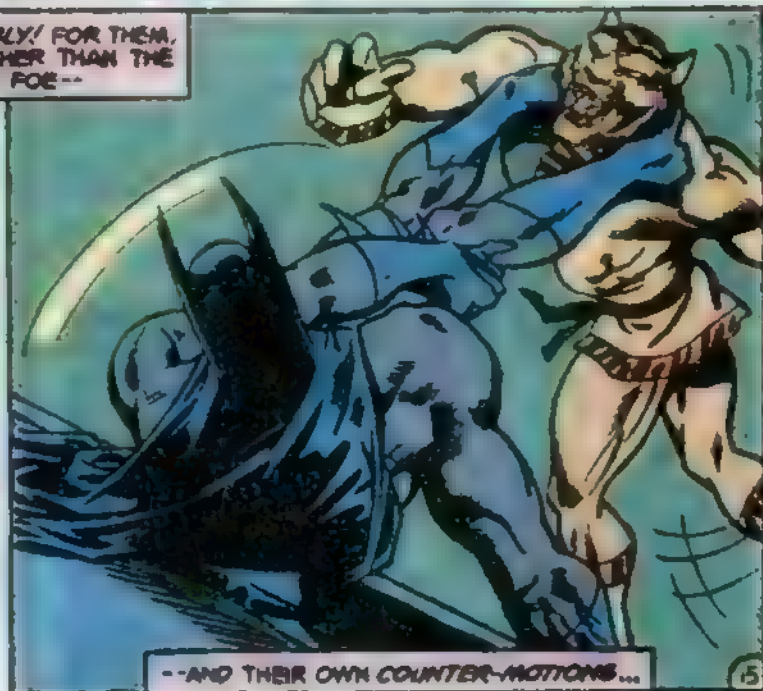
--OF WIT AND REFLEX  
AND STRENGTH--



THESE MEN ARE  
NO LONGER  
THINKING-- NOR  
EVEN FEELING! THEY  
ARE REACTING--



--REACTING SUPERBLY! FOR THEM,  
NOTHING EXISTS OTHER THAN THE  
MOTIONS OF THE FOE--



--AND THEIR OWN COUNTER-MOTIONS...

15

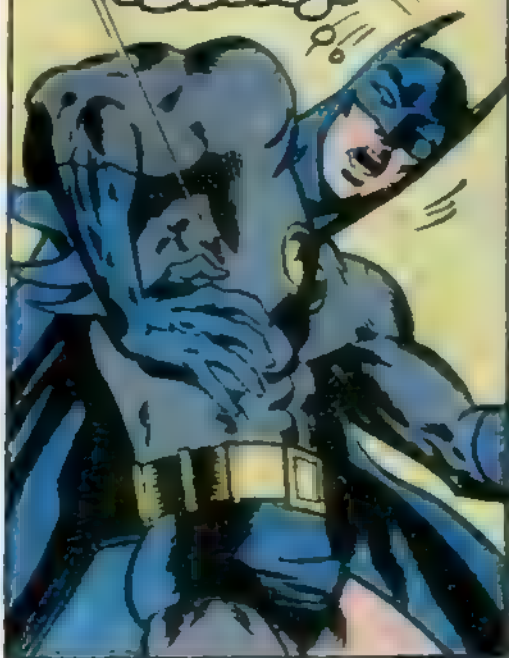






LIKE A SMALL, LETHAL INSECT THE  
TINY MISSILE STREAKS TO ITS TARGET--

A DART! LOADED WITH  
TOXIN, NO DOUBT!



GOT TO GET THE  
ANTIDOTE INTO ME!

IS THIS YOUR  
IDEA OF A FAIR  
FIGHT, TIGER?  
HAVING A CONFEDERATE  
STRIKE AT ME FROM THE  
SIDELINES?

I HAD NOTHING  
TO DO WITH  
IT, MAN!

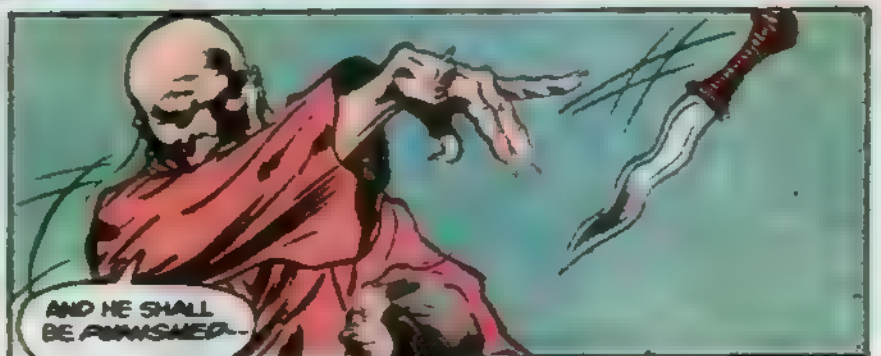


THEN IT  
WAS YOUR  
IDEA,  
SENSEI!

NO! I WAS ENJOYING  
THE CONTEST! WHAT  
IS MORE, HE WHO DID  
IT HAS INCURRED  
MY ANGER--



AND HE SHALL  
BE PUNISHED--

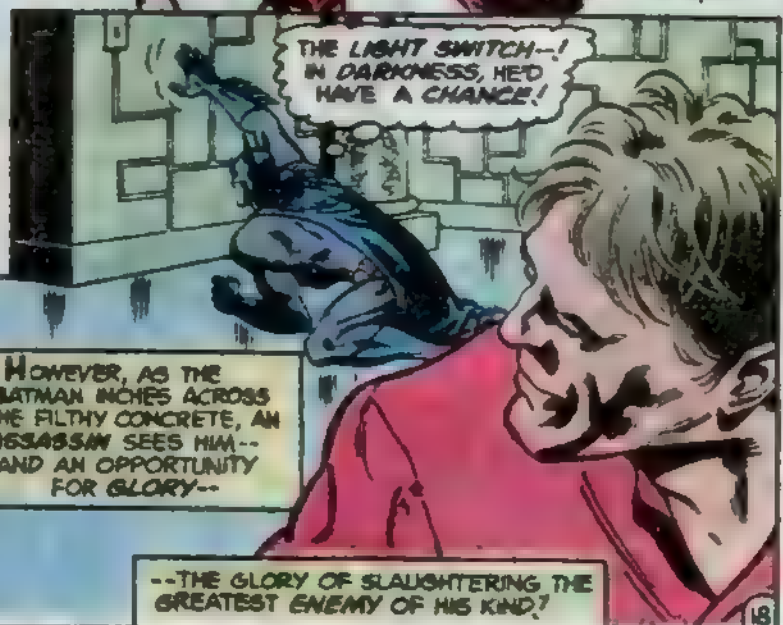


THERE IS NO  
POINT IN FURTHER  
DELAY!

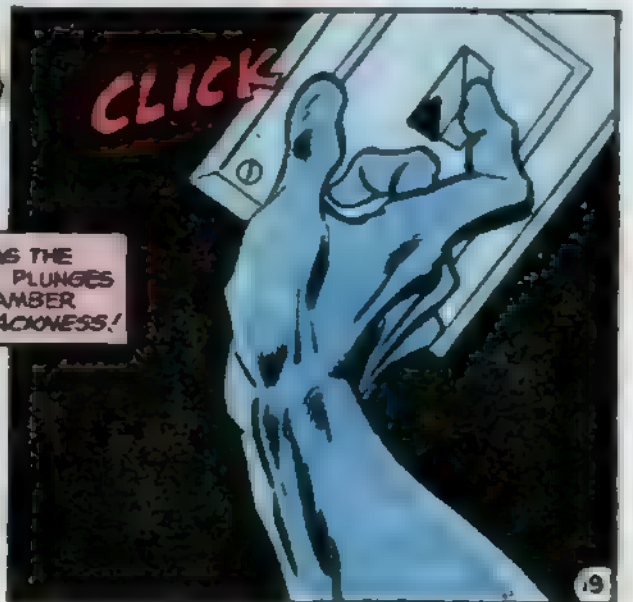
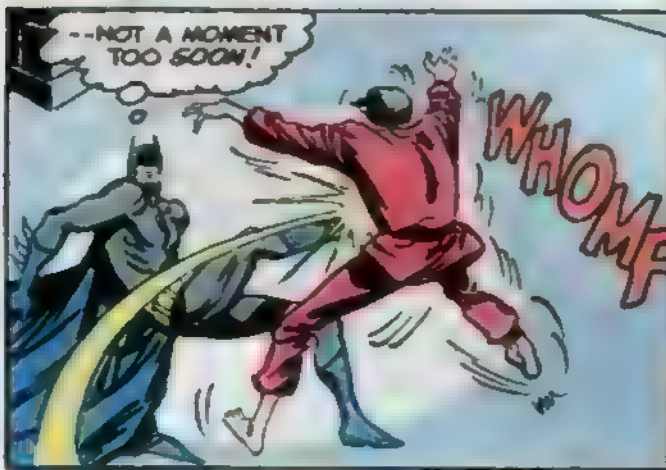
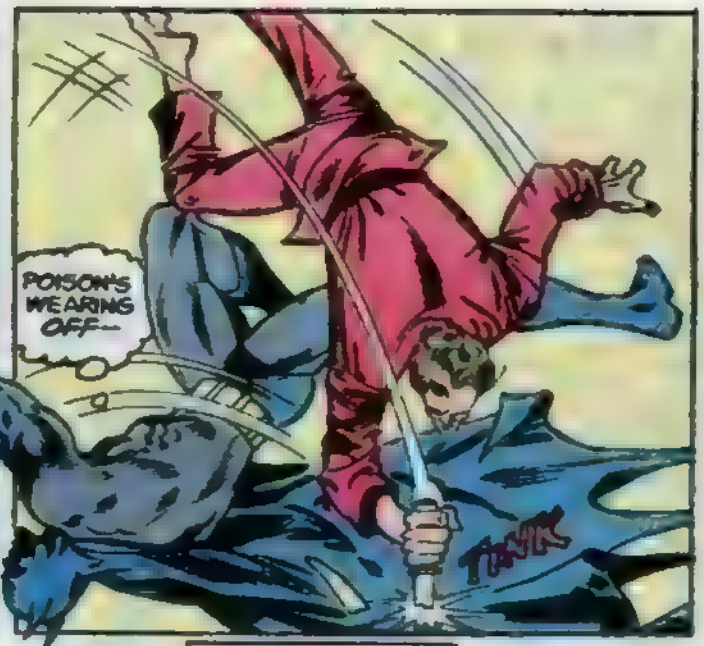
TIME THE ENEMY  
MY STUDENTS--AND  
DISPOSE OF HIM!



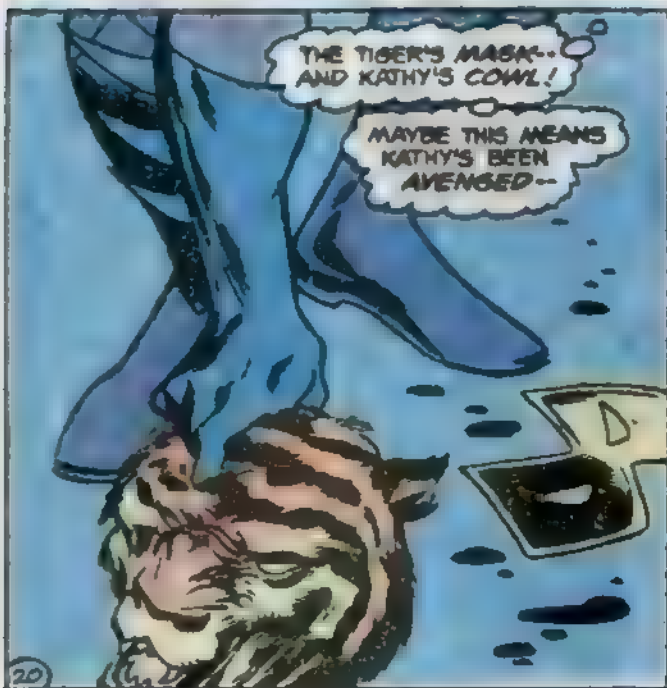
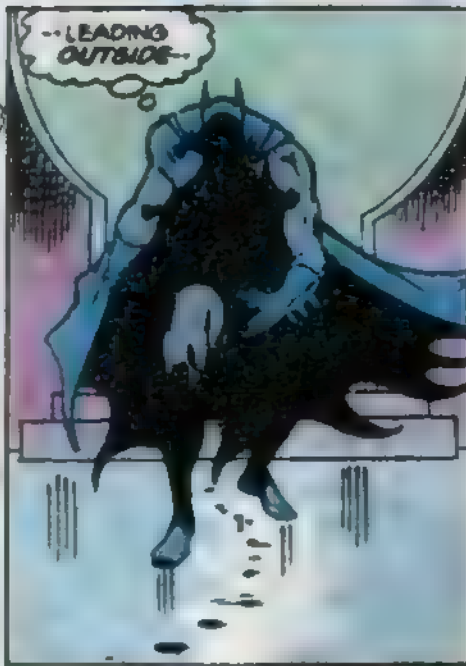
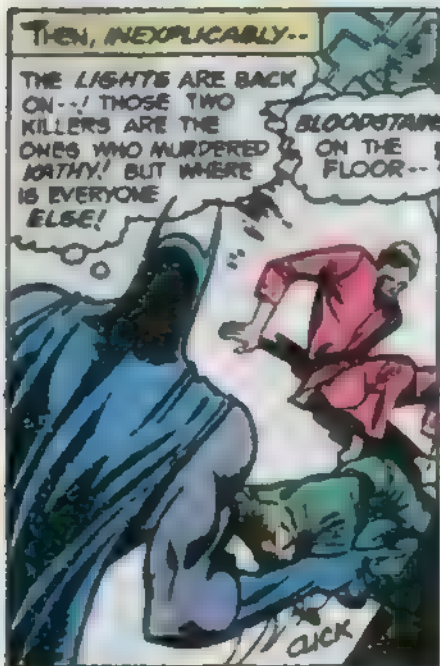
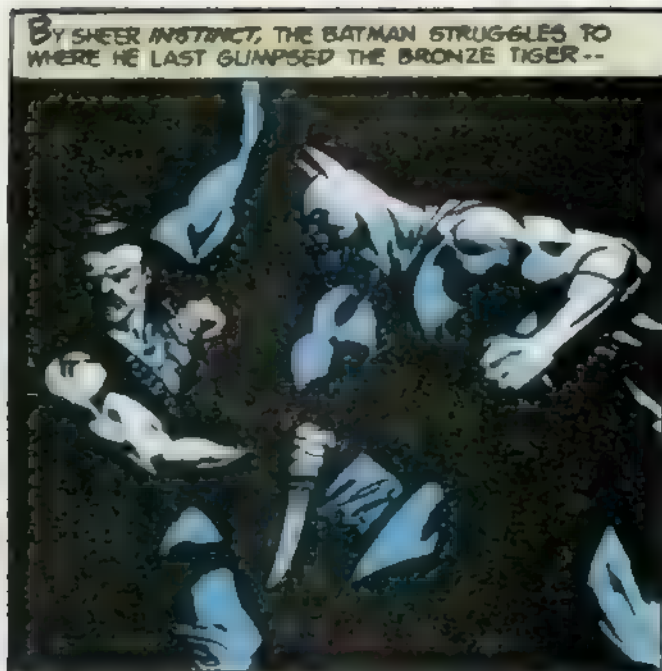














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A  
NOVEL-  
LENGTH  
**ROBIN-  
BATGIRL**  
STORY!

WITH YOUR  
MEMORY  
**DESTROYED,**  
MY SECRET'S  
SAFE!

**TWO  
BATMAN  
NOVELETTES!**

**plus**  
**COMMISSIONER  
GORDON  
IN HIS  
FIRST  
SOLO STORY!**

**and**  
**THE ATOM  
IN A  
MINI-EPIC!**



C-283

ANDRU F  
GIORDANO



ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, **BRUCE WAYNE** HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...

# BAT MAN

CREATED BY

BOB KANE

IT IS NEAR MIDNIGHT AND THE CORRIDORS OF GOTHAM CENTRAL HOSPITAL ARE HUSHED... THE SILENCE OF THE GRIEVING, THE FEARFUL, BROKEN ONLY BY AN OCCASIONAL MOAN AND A HARSH WHISPER--

THAT IS HIS ROOM?

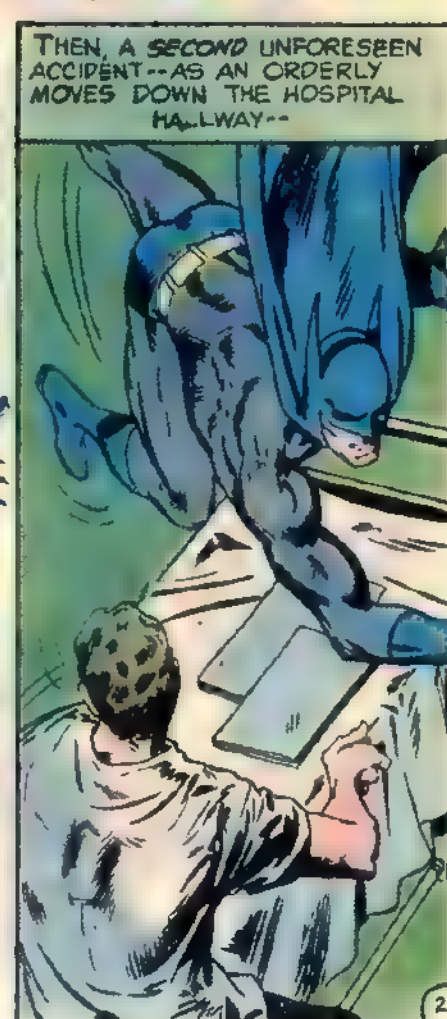
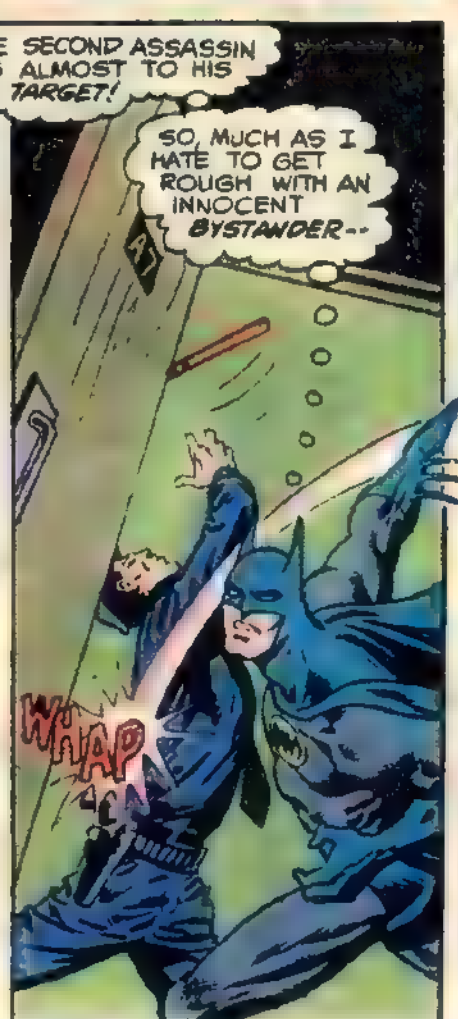
YES! LET US SEND HIM TO HIS ANCESTORS!

THEY ARE EVIL, THIS STEALTHY PAIR-- AND THEY ARE WATCHED! ANOTHER IS WITH THEM, UNSEEN, YET ABOUT TO ACT...

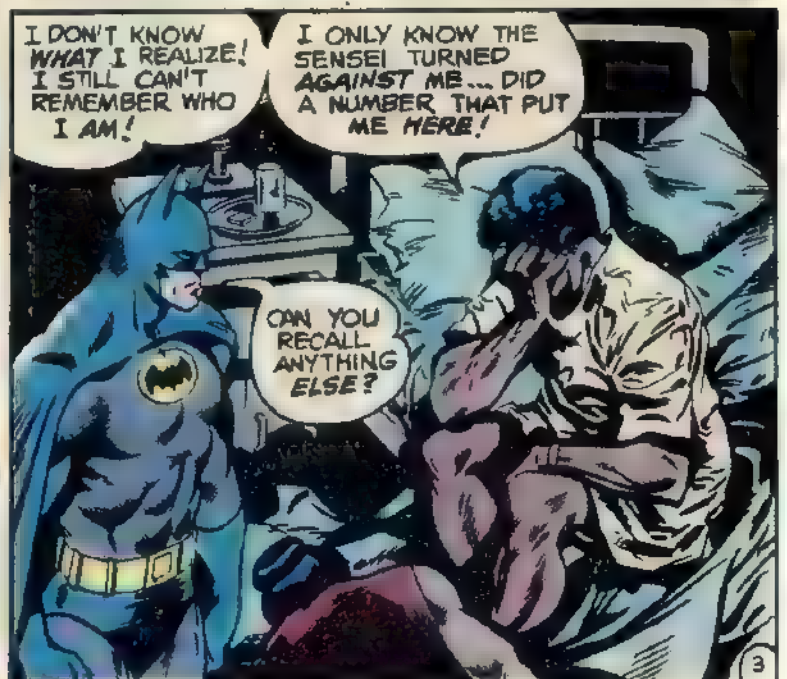
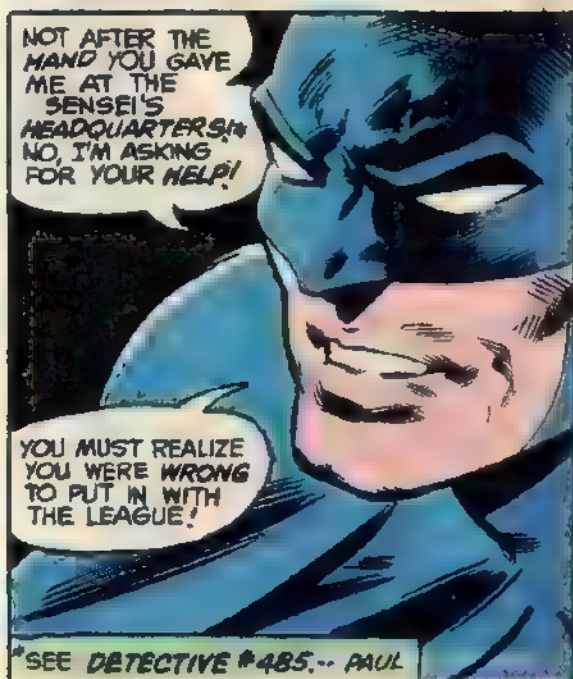
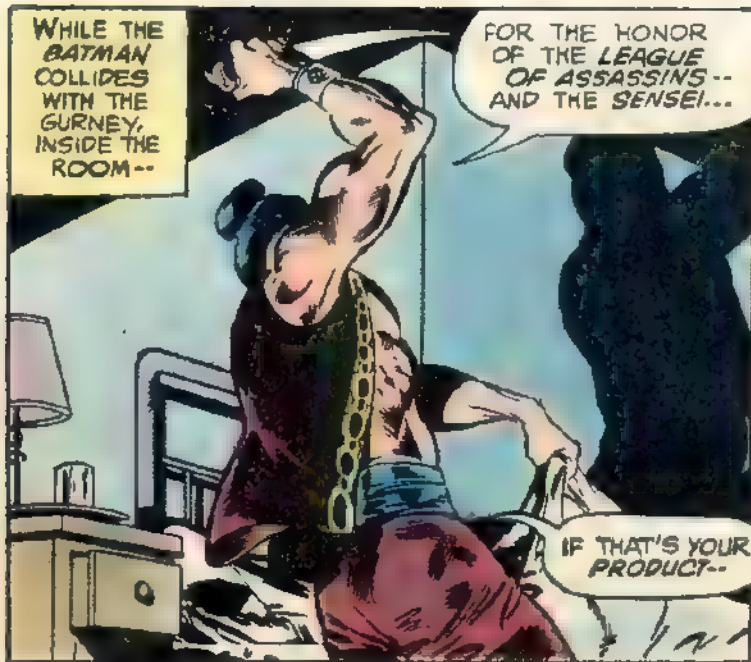
## WHERE STRIKE THE ASSASSINS

DENNY O'NEIL  
WRITER  
DON NEWTON  
AND  
DAN ADKINS  
ARTISTS  
BEN ODA  
LETTERER  
ADRIENNE ROY  
COLORIST  
PAUL LEVITZ  
EDITOR





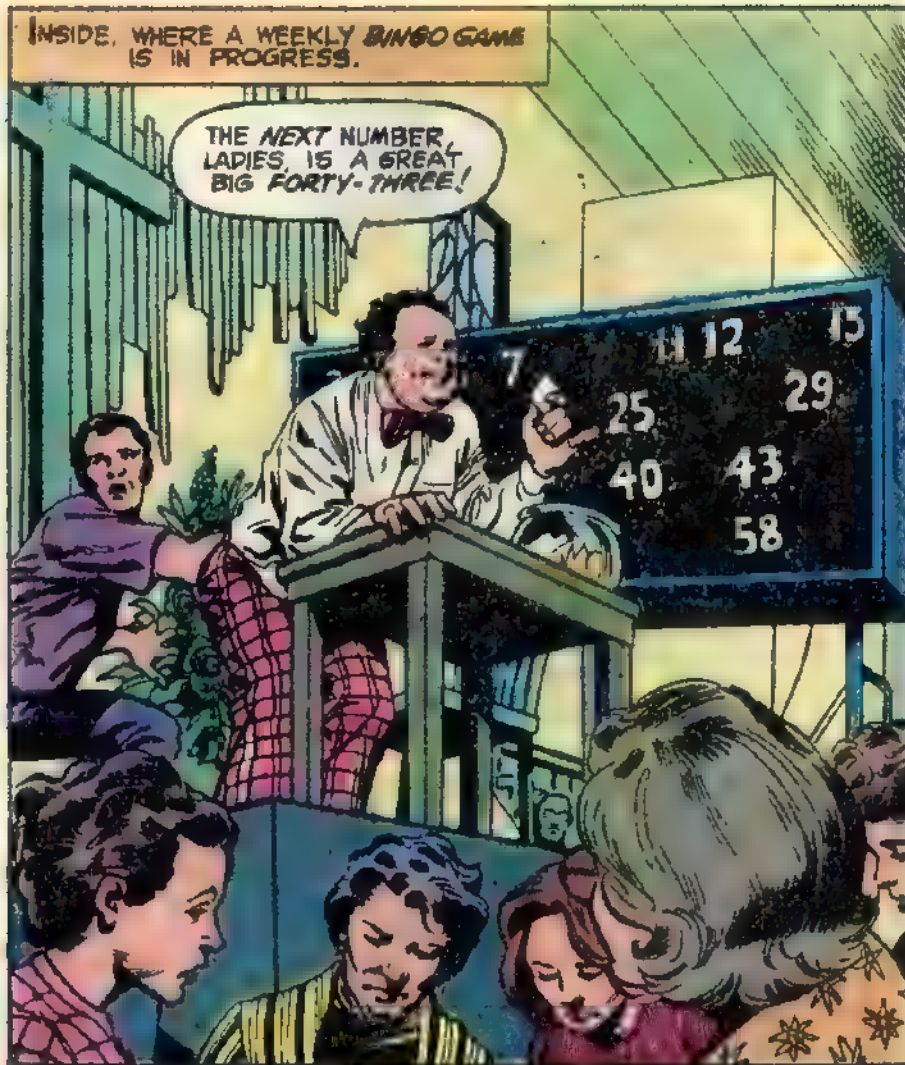
















OF ALL THE NERVE! HE SIMPLY SMATTERED PART OF OUR BOARD!



WE'LL JUST HAVE TO CARRY ON WITHOUT IT, LADIES!

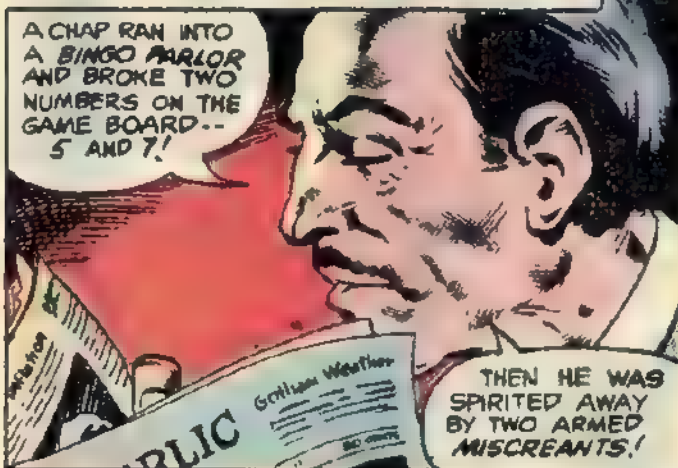
NUMBER TWENTY-TWO!



AND, THE FOLLOWING MORNING AT THE BATCAVE...

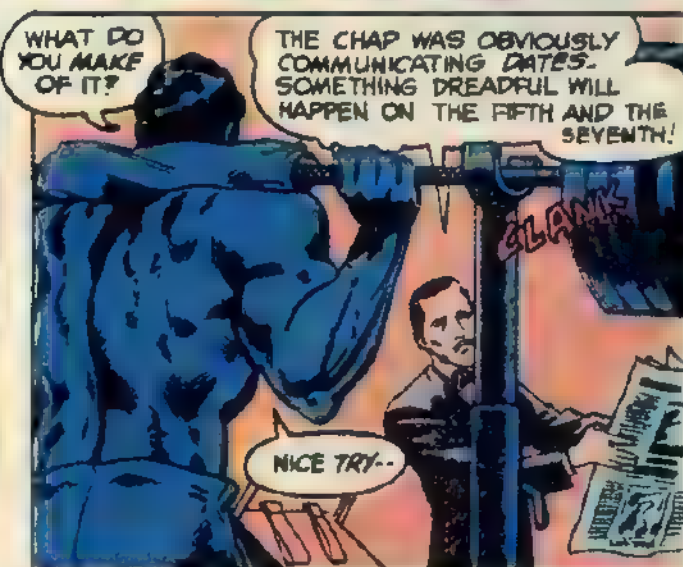
INTERESTING ITEM IN THE MORNING NEWS, MASTER BRUCE!

LET'S HEAR IT, ALFRED!



A CHAP RAN INTO A BINGO PARLOR AND BROKE TWO NUMBERS ON THE GAME BOARD-- 5 AND 7!

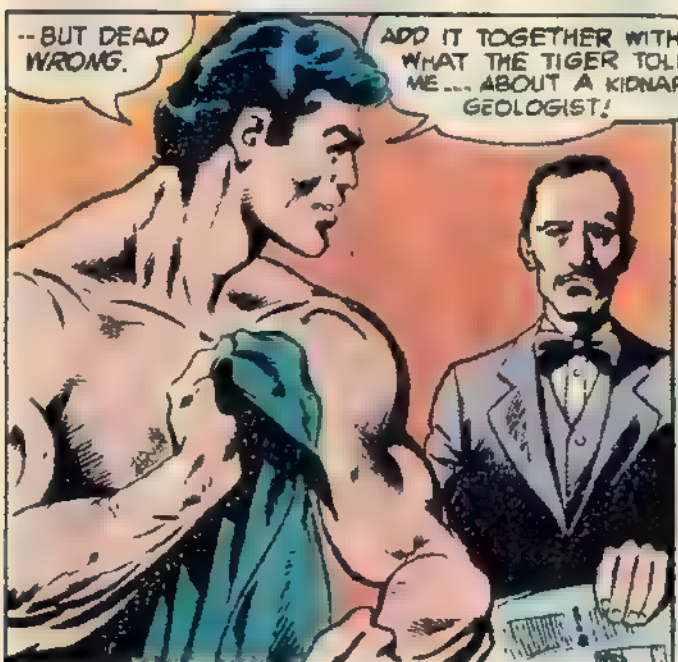
THEN HE WAS SPIRITED AWAY BY TWO ARMED MISCREANTS!



WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?

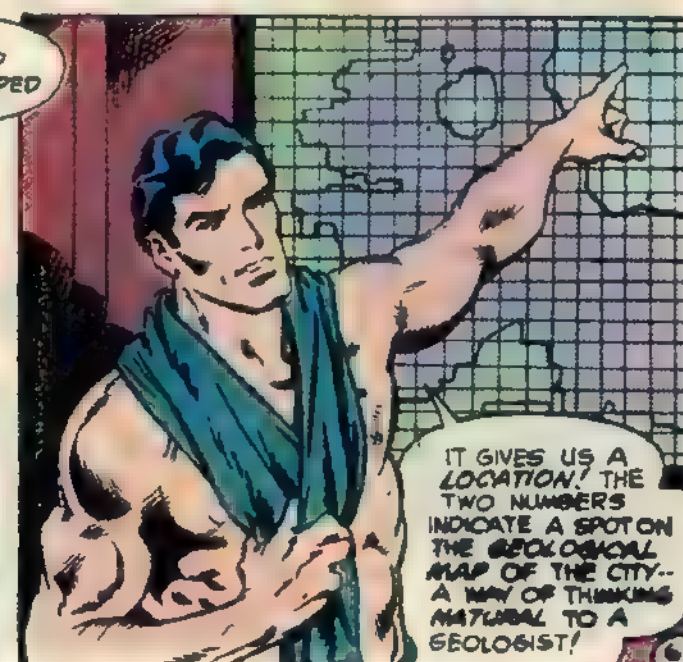
THE CHAP WAS OBVIOUSLY COMMUNICATING DATES. SOMETHING DREADFUL WILL HAPPEN ON THE FIFTH AND THE SEVENTH!

NICE TRY--



--BUT DEAD WRONG.

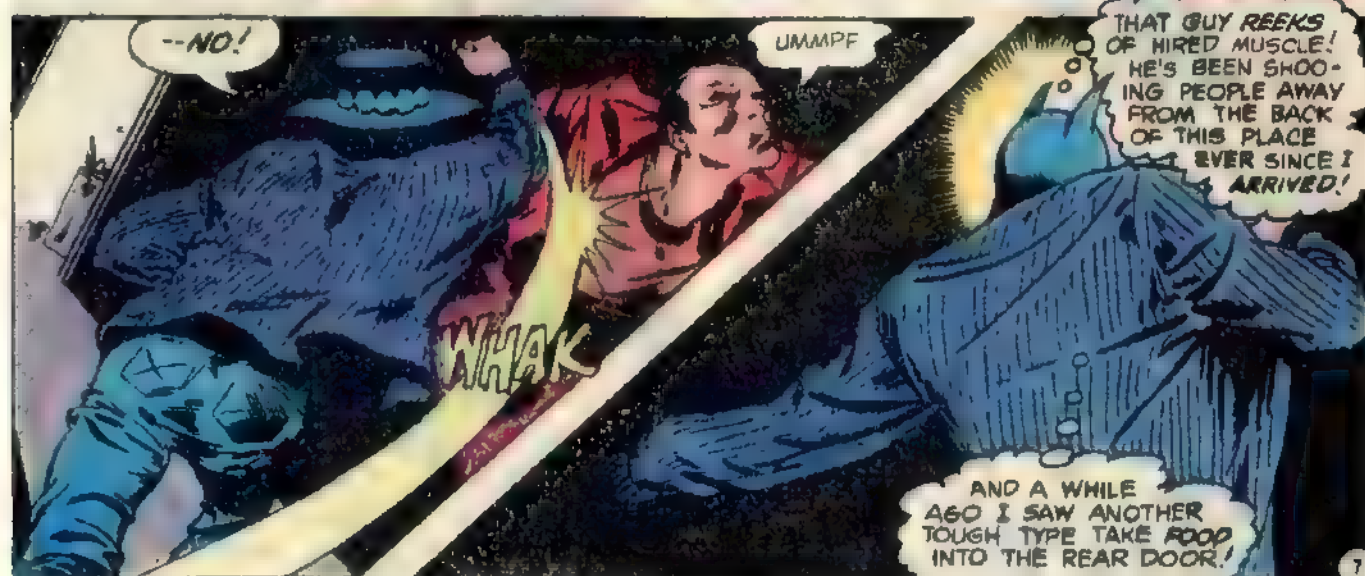
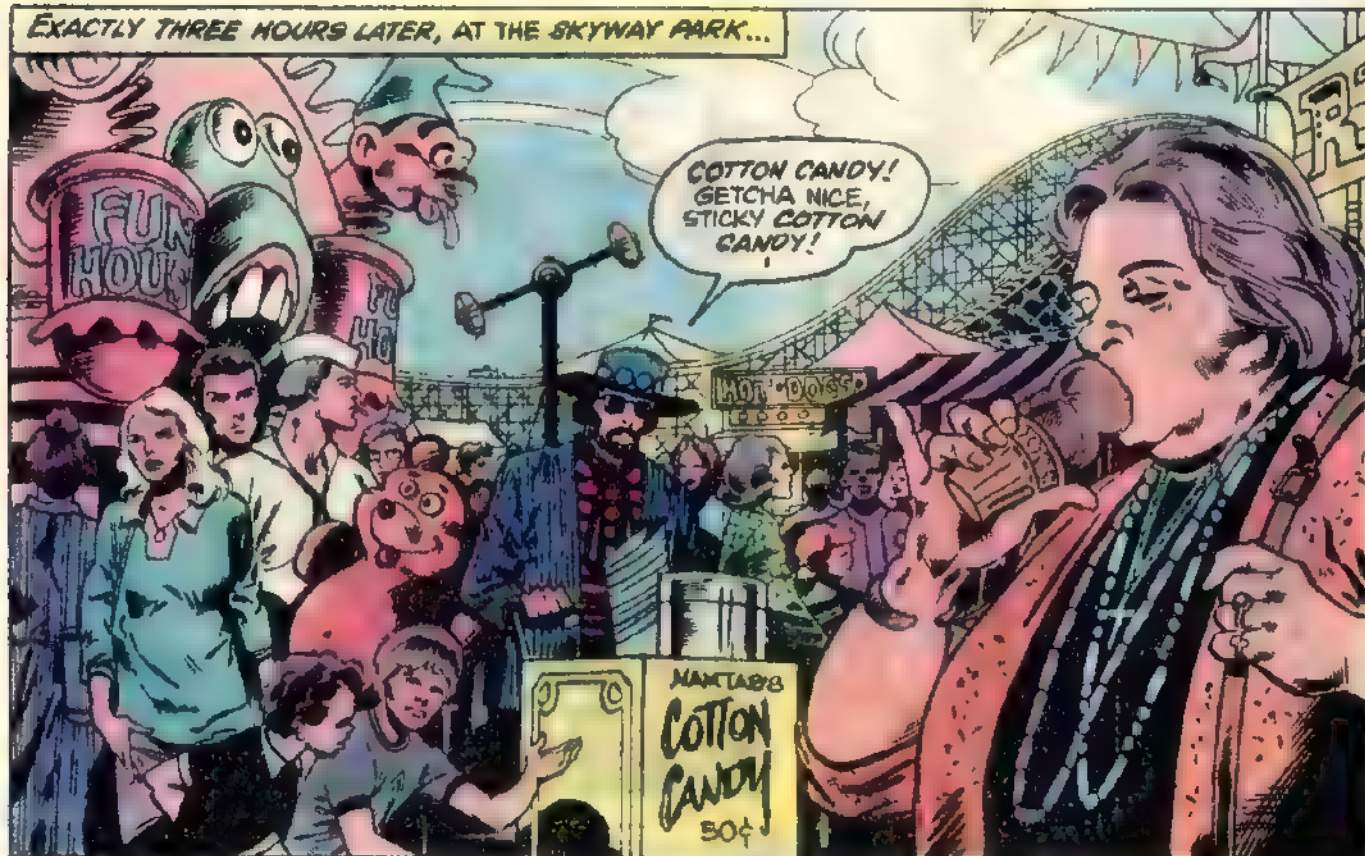
ADD IT TOGETHER WITH WHAT THE TIGER TOLD ME... ABOUT A KIDNAPPED GEOLOGIST!



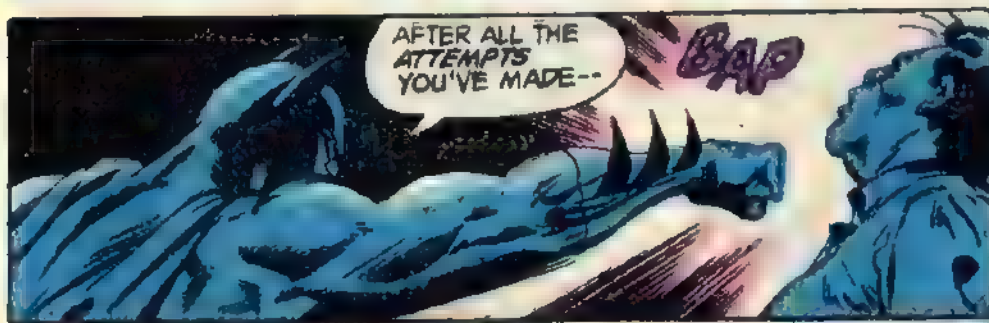
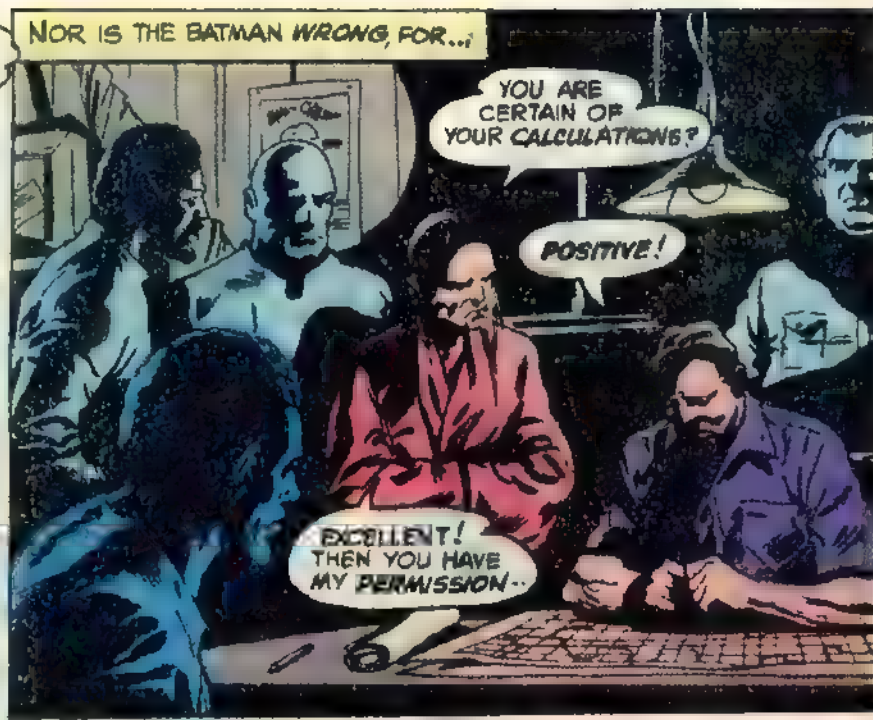
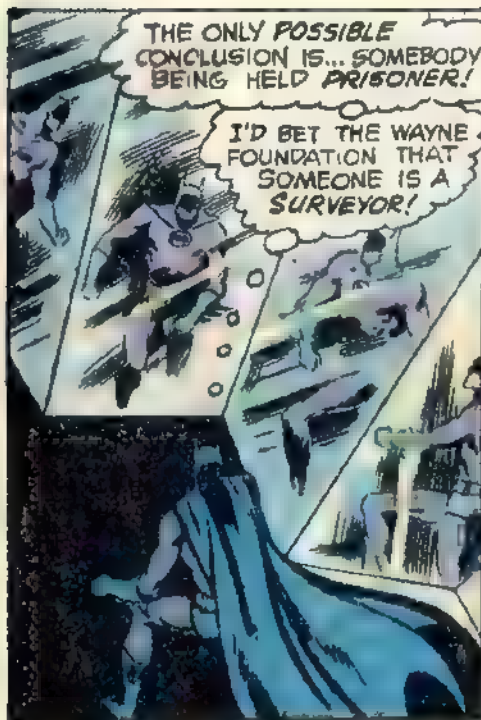
IT GIVES US A LOCATION! THE TWO NUMBERS INDICATE A SPOT ON THE GEOLOGICAL MAP OF THE CITY-- A WAY OF THINKING NATURAL TO A GEOLOGIST!



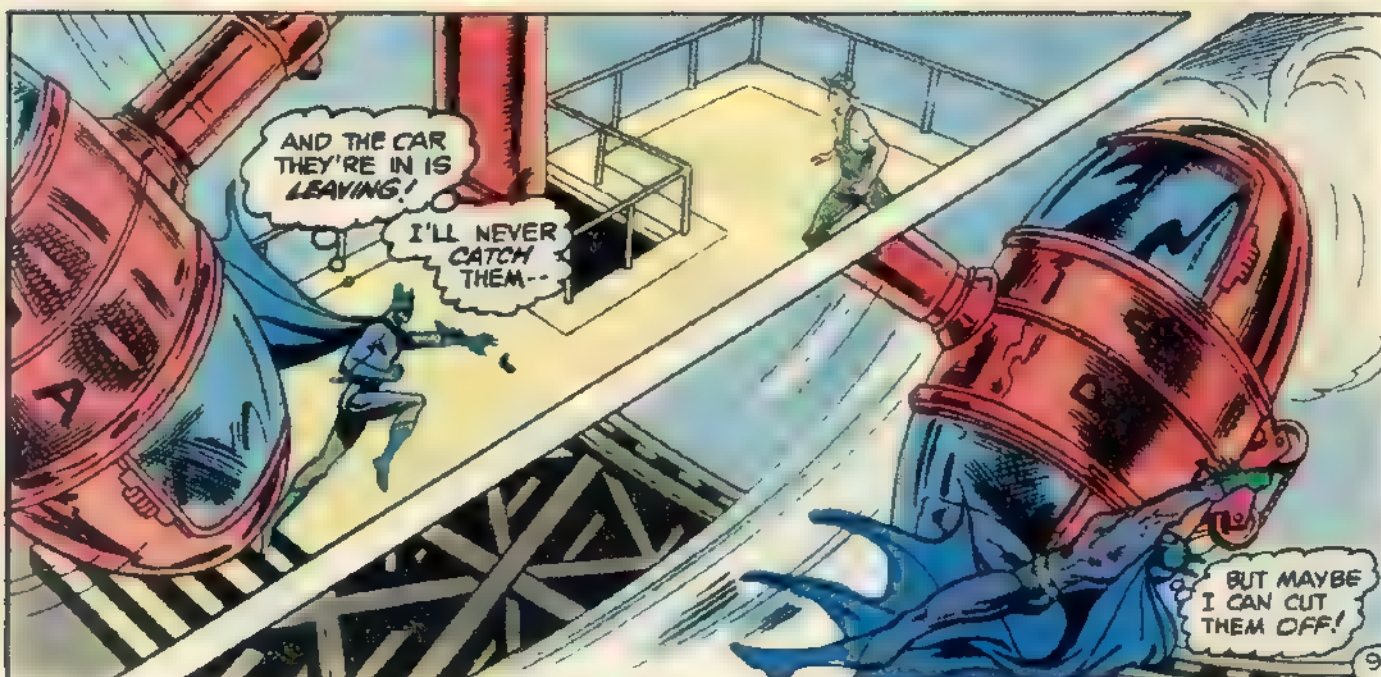
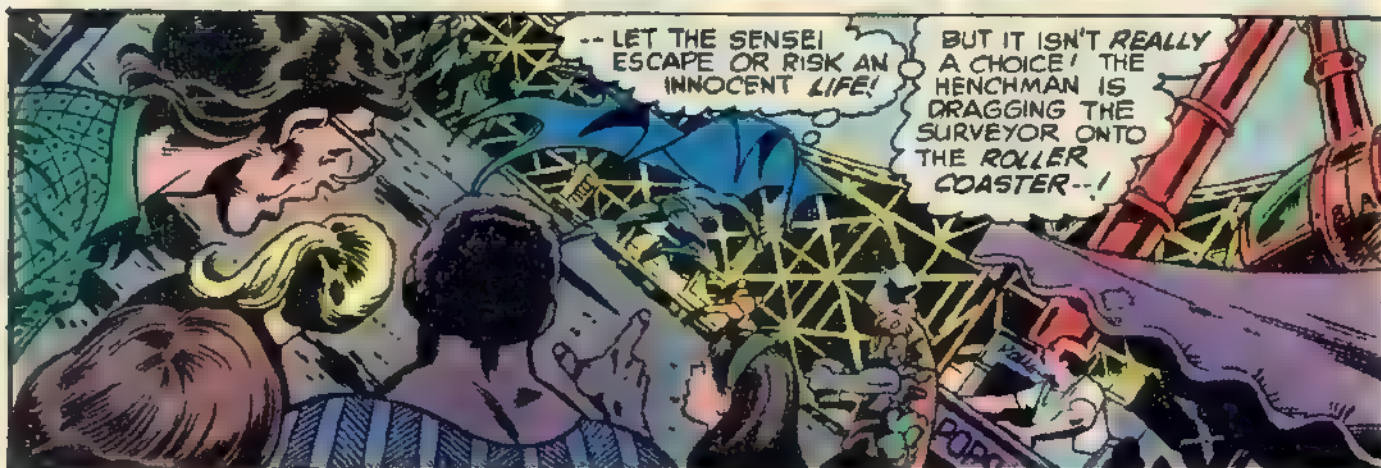
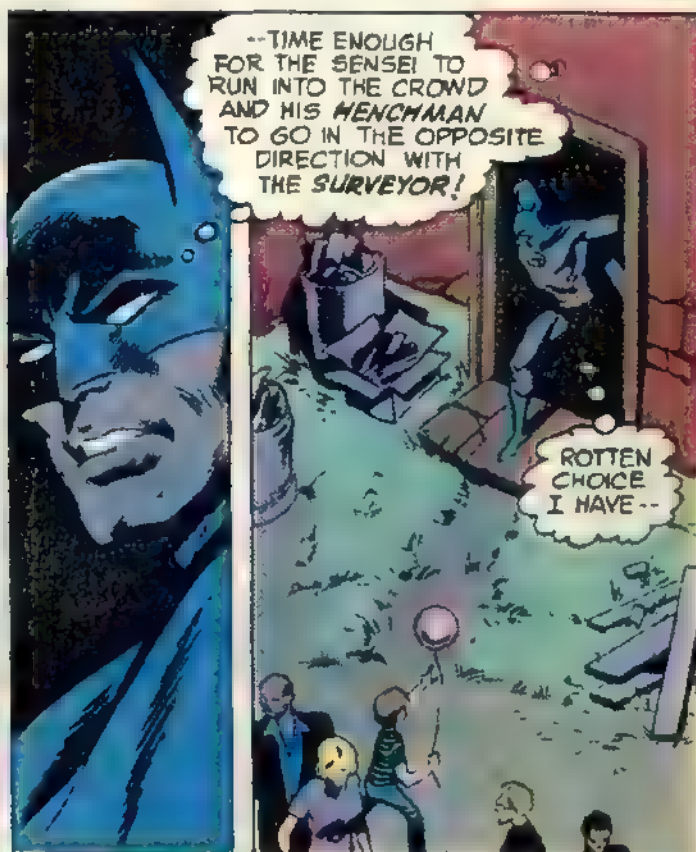
EXACTLY THREE HOURS LATER, AT THE SKYWAY PARK...



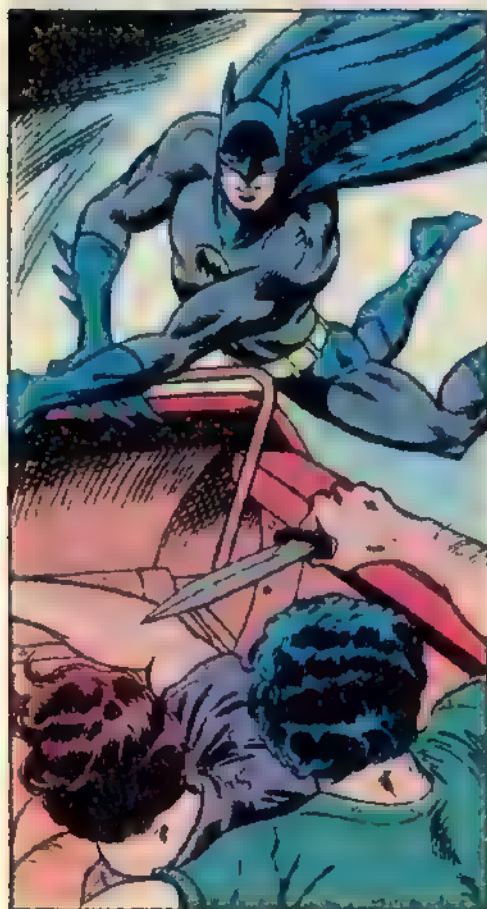
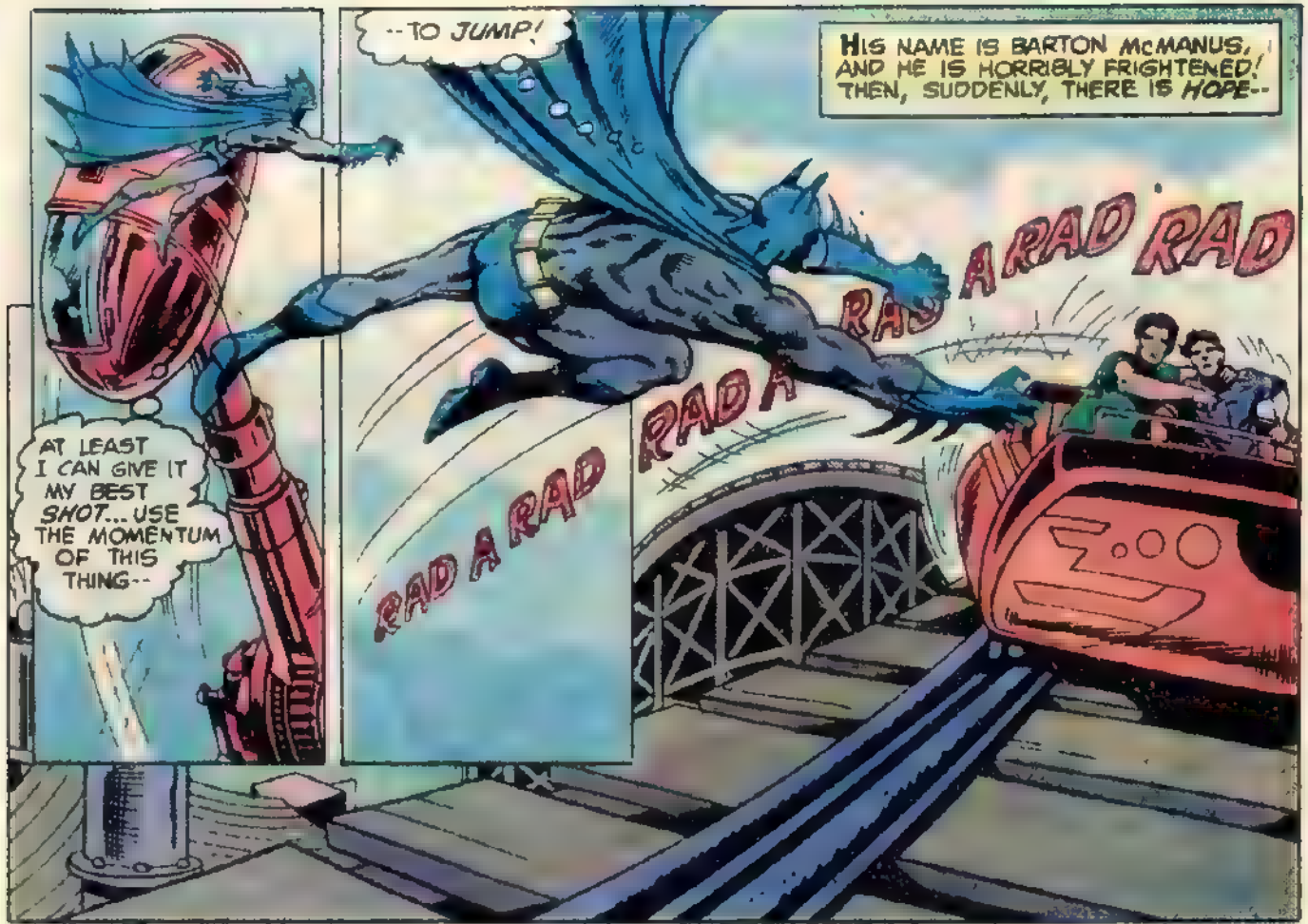












--HOPE HE CAN HARDLY BRING HIMSELF TO BELIEVE! HE SENSES AN EQUAL DISBELIEF IN THE MURDERER BESIDE HIM AS A DARK FIGURE MATERIALIZES ...



YOU HAVE JUST SEEN THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASH THAT WILL TURN GOTHAM CITY INTO A BATTLE GROUND AS THE BATMAN AND THE SENSEI BATTLE OVER SIX OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LIVES ON EARTH! NEXT MONTH, WITNESS THE INCREDIBLE END!



MORE  
PAGES  
FOR YOUR  
MONEY!  
-- BEST  
BUY IN  
COMICS!



5 ALL-NEW THRILLERS!

FEATURING  
THE ENTIRE **BATMAN FAMILY!**



BATMAN STARRING IN

# DETECTIVE COMICS

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

**RAS AL GHUL AND TALIA  
VS. THE SENSEI!  
AND THE ASSASSINS--  
WITH BATMAN  
CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE!  
THE CLIMACTIC CHAPTER!**

**Plus  
NEW  
ROBIN  
AND  
BATGIRL  
SOLO-EPICS!**



**AND NOW  
IN HIS OWN  
SERIES!**

**Black  
LIGHTNING!**





ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...

BAT MAN

READ BY

BOD  
NAME

MAKE NO MISTAKE...THERE IS A MOON THIS STILL, UNSEASONABLY COLD NIGHT! ONLY A MOMENT AGO IT BATHED GOTHAM CITY IN A PALE BRASS GLOW! NOW, HOWEVER, IT HIDES BEHIND CLOUDS BLOATED WITH RAIN AND A CHILL WIND RUSTLES IN FROM THE OCEAN!

THERE IS A NEAR SILENCE HERE ON THE DOCKS, BROKEN ONLY BY THE LAPPING OF THE WAVES, THE MUTED GRUNTS OF LABORING MEN AND A WHISPERED CRY--

BATMAN--!

IN A MOMENT, THERE WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF A TERRIBLE VIOLENCE AND A RACE THE BATMAN CAN NOT HOPE TO WIN-- YET CAN NOT AFFORD TO LOSE...

REQUIEM FOR A MARTYR!

DENNY O'NEIL - WRITER • DON NEWTON & DAN ADKINS - ARTISTS • BEN ODA - LETTERER • ADRIENNE ROY - COLORIST • PAUL LEVITZ - EDITOR

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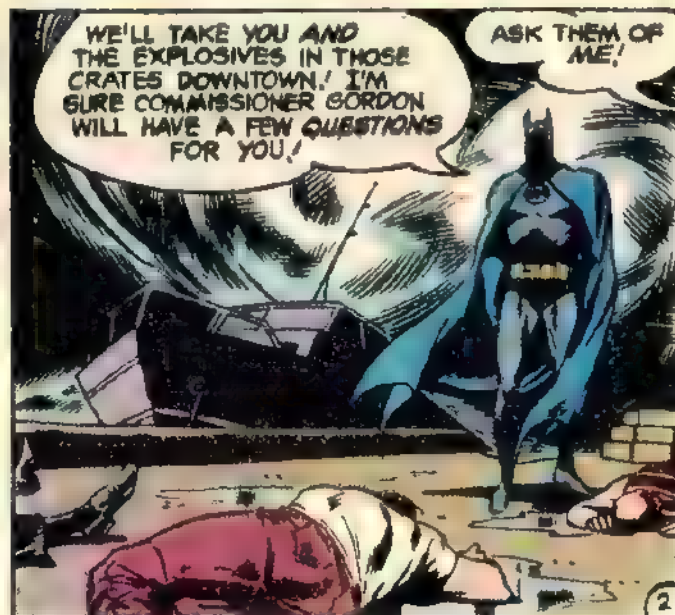
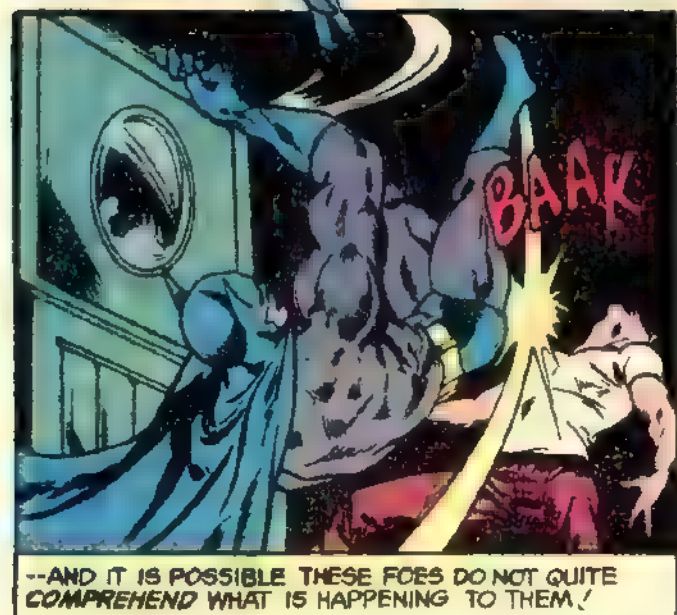
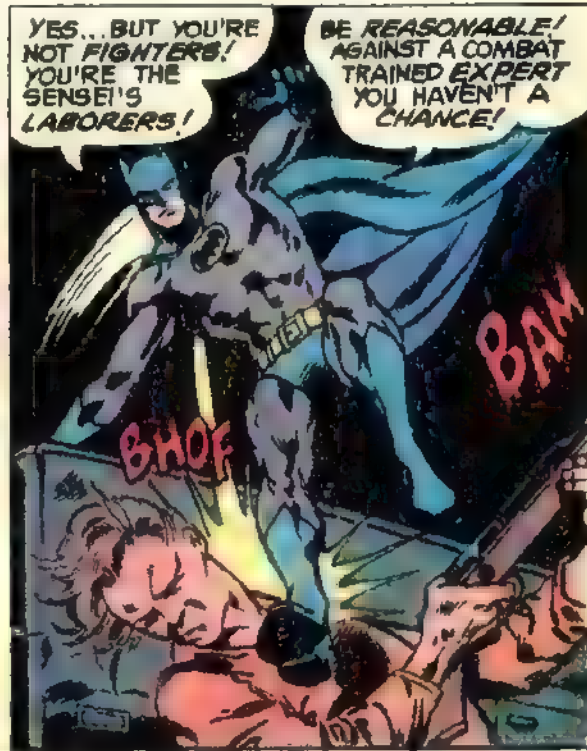
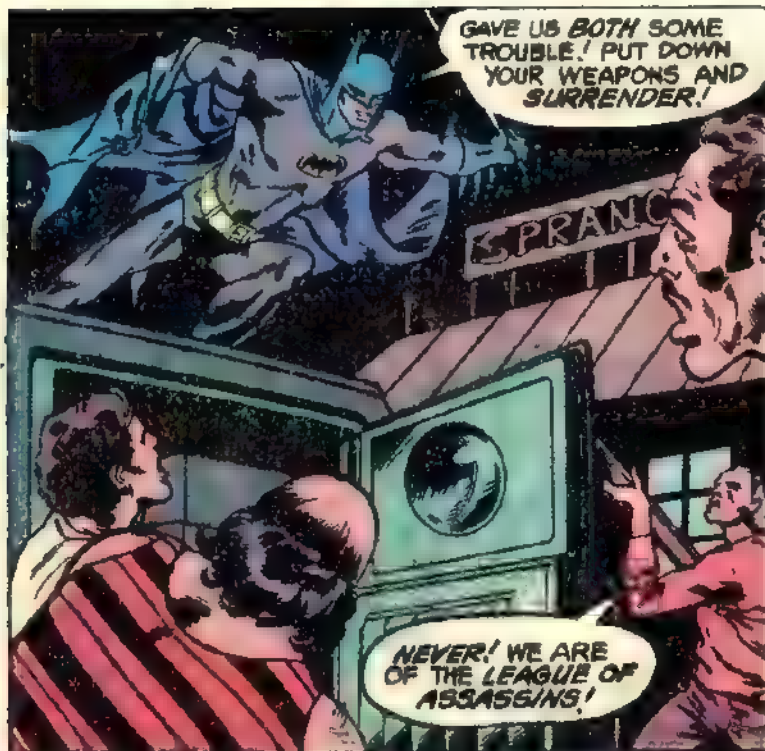
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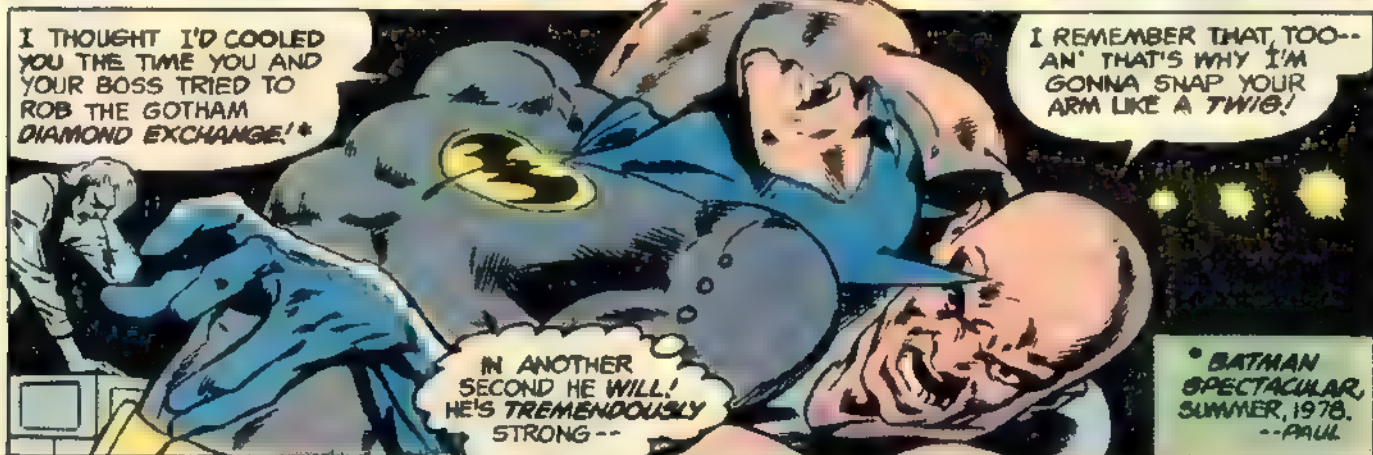


I'LL ANSWER  
YOUR QUESTIONS!



SPEAK TO ME OF  
THEM, BATMAN!

LURK!  
RAS AL  
GHUL'S  
CHIEF  
MUSCLE--!

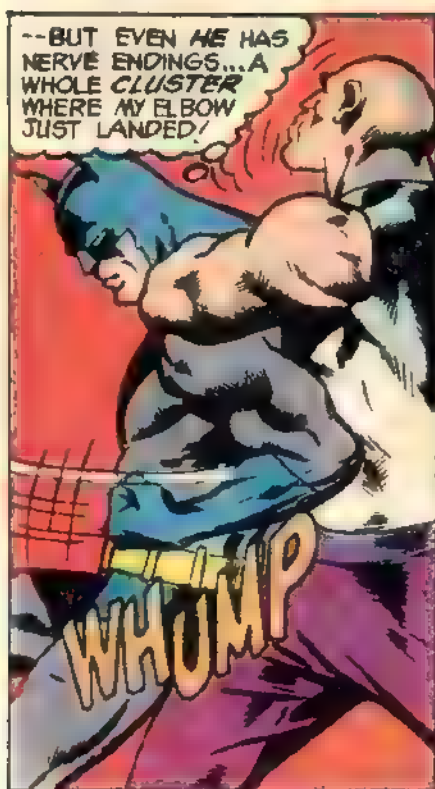


I THOUGHT I'D COOLED  
YOU THE TIME YOU AND  
YOUR BOSS TRIED TO  
ROB THE GOTHAM  
DIAMOND EXCHANGE!\*

I REMEMBER THAT TOO--  
AN' THAT'S WHY I'M  
GONNA SNAP YOUR  
ARM LIKE A TWIG!

IN ANOTHER  
SECOND HE WILL!  
HE'S TREMENDOUSLY  
STRONG--

\* BATMAN  
SPECTACULAR,  
SUMMER, 1978.  
--PAUL

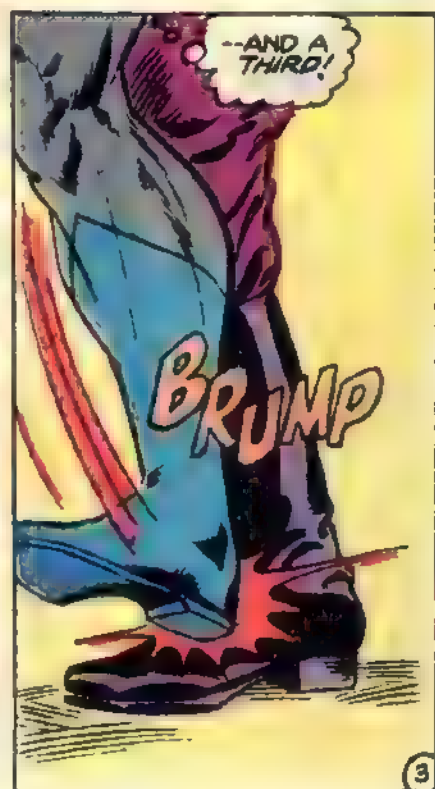


--BUT EVEN HE HAS  
NERVE ENDINGS...A  
WHOLE CLUSTER  
WHERE MY ELBOW  
JUST LANDED!

WHUMP



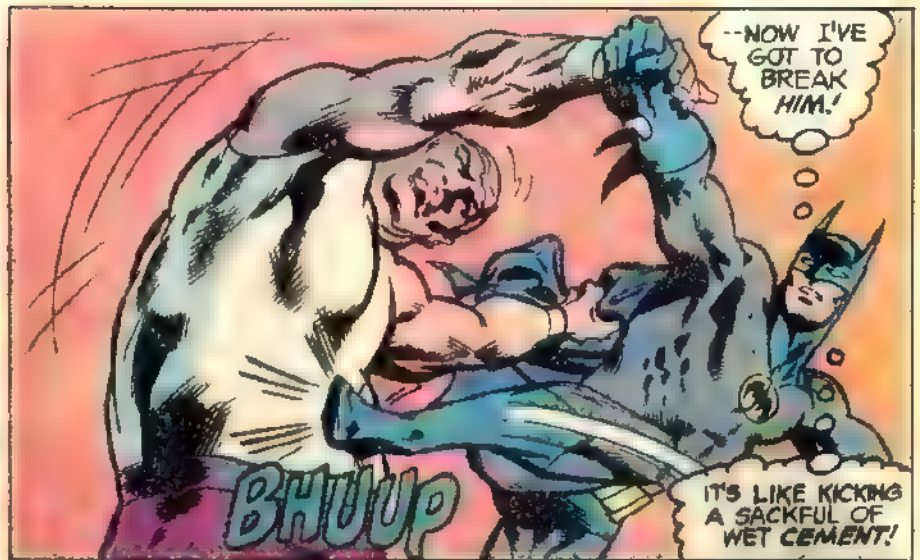
I CAN FEEL HIS GRIP  
LOOSEN A TINY FRACTION!  
A SECOND PAINFUL STRIKE SHOULD  
LOOSEN IT A BIT MORE!



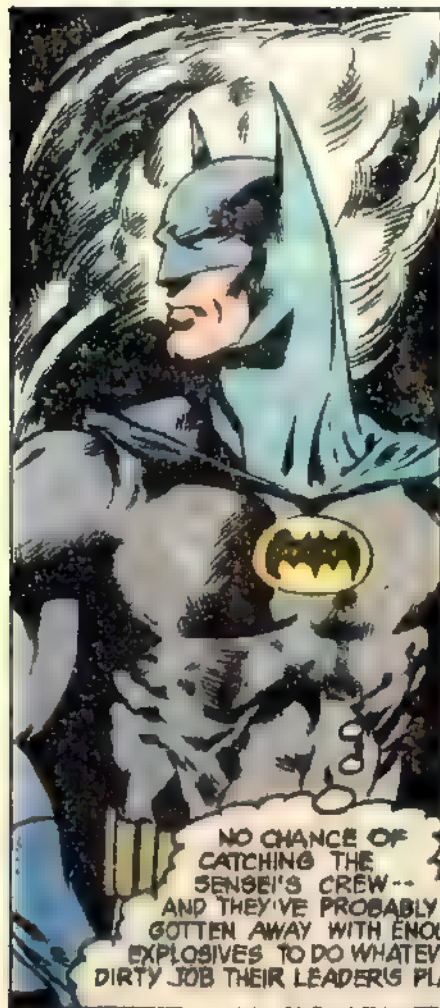
--AND A  
THIRD!

BRUMP









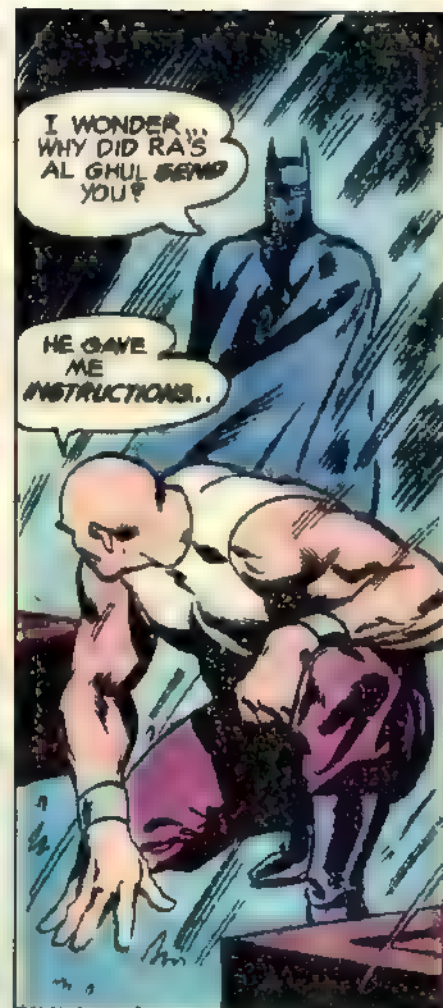
NO CHANCE OF CATCHING THE SENSEI'S CREW-- AND THEY'VE PROBABLY GOTTEN AWAY WITH ENOUGH EXPLOSIVES TO DO WHATEVER DIRTY JOB THEIR LEADER'S PLANNING!



HOW ARE YOU FEELING? TERRIBLE, I HOPE!

THERE WILL BE A NEXT TIME!

AND YOU'LL END UP THE LOSER THEN, TOO!



I WONDER... WHY DID RA'S AL GHUL SEND YOU?

HE GAVE ME INSTRUCTIONS...



...I WAS TO PREVENT THE SENSEI'S MEN FROM UNLOADING THE BOAT!

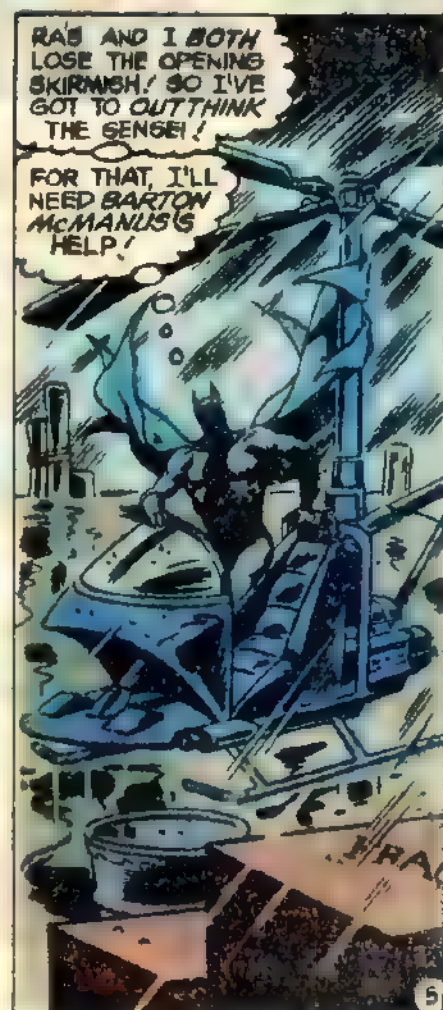
BUT YOU COULDN'T RESIST TAKING A SHOT AT ME!



YOU REALLY FOULED THIS ONE, FRIEND! RA'S IS GOING TO BE VERY UNHAPPY!



IF I WERE YOU, I'D FIND A PLACE TO HIDE-- PREFERABLY ON ANOTHER PLANET!

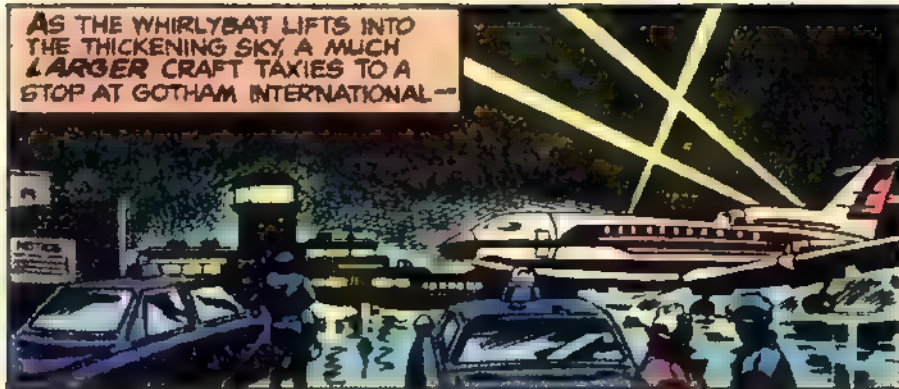


RA'S AND I BOTH LOSE THE OPENING SKIRMISH! SO I'VE GOT TO OUTTHINK THE SENSEI!

FOR THAT, I'LL NEED BARTON MCMANUS'S HELP!



AS THE WHIRLYBAT LIFTS INTO THE THICKENING SKY, A MUCH LARGER CRAFT TAXIES TO A STOP AT GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL--



--AND FOUR DISTINGUISHED PERSONAGES DEBOUCH IN THE TERMINAL, TO BE GREETED BY THE MAYOR...

WELCOME, YOUR HOLINESSES!



DELIGHTFUL! DELIGHTFUL TO BE HERE!

I SECOND THE ARCHBISHOP'S SENTIMENTS!



A LIMOUSINE IS WAITING TO CARRY YOU TO YOUR COLLEAGUES!

WHO ARE THEY?

BEG YOUR PARDON, REVEREND REENEY?

I SAID... WHO ARE THEY?

YOUR BODYGUARD, REVEREND! COMMISSIONER GORDON IS COMMANDING THEM PERSONALLY...

DISMISS THEM.

I WILL NOT HAVE ARMED MEN IN MY PRESENCE! MY CHURCH DISDAINS WEAPONS OF ALL SORTS!

I DO NOT WISH TO SEE THEM AGAIN! IS THAT QUITE CLEAR?

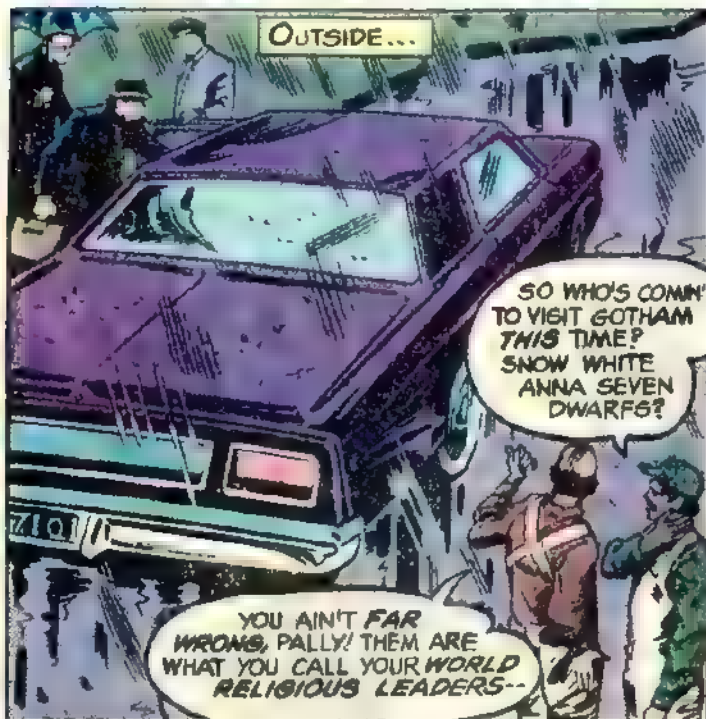




CERTAINLY, REVEREND!

STAY OUT OF SIGHT-- BUT NOT TOO FAR OUT OF SIGHT! I'LL TAG ALONG WITH OUR GUESTS!

YESSIR, COMMISSIONER!



OUTSIDE...

SO WHO'S COMIN' TO VISIT GOTHAM THIS TIME? SNOW WHITE ANNA SEVEN DWARFS?

YOU AIN'T FAR WRONG, PALLY! THEM ARE WHAT YOU CALL YOUR WORLD RELIGIOUS LEADERS--

"...THEY'RE HAVIN' A BIG MEET AT THE MATTHEWS ESTATE."



SOMETHIN' ABOUT GLOBAL PEACE!

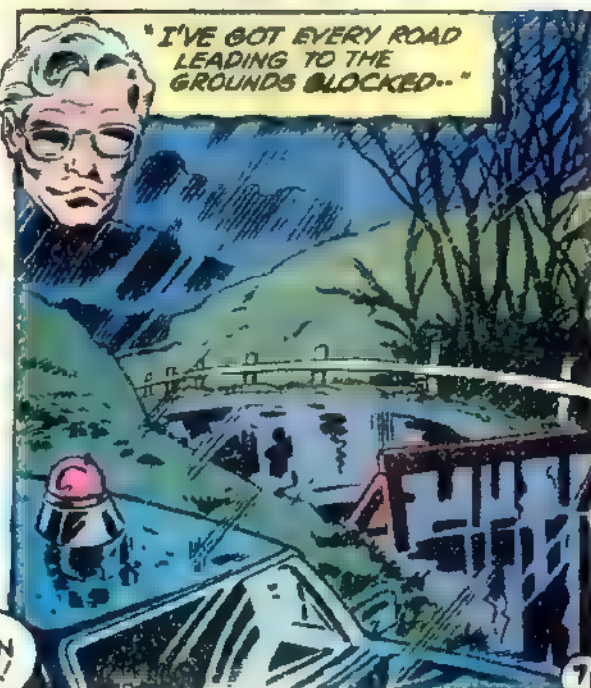
YEAH? ASK ME, IT'S ALL BUSHWAH!

AN HOUR LATER...



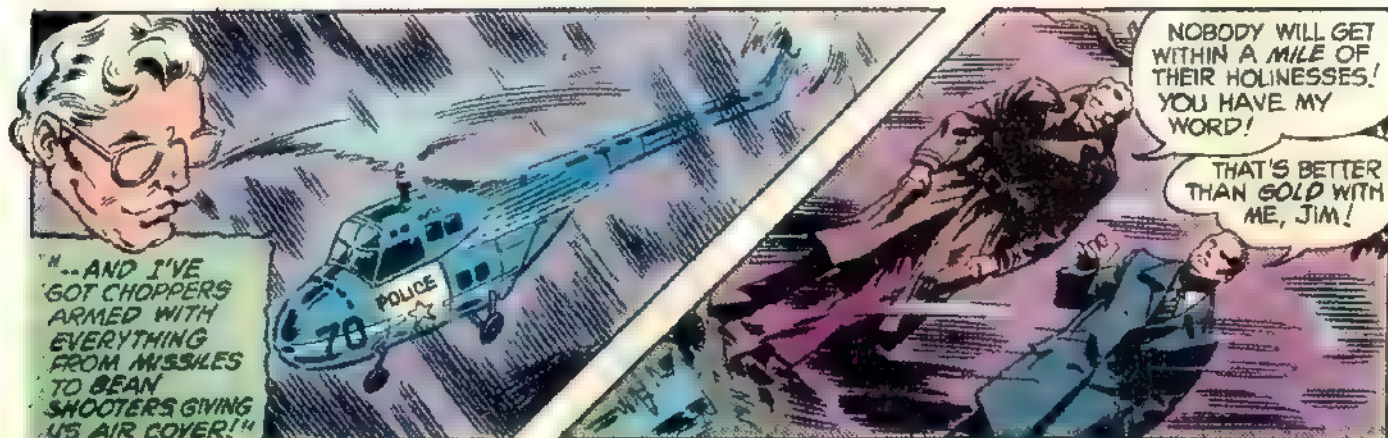
DESPITE REVEREND REENEY'S ... AH... M'GIVINGS, I TRUST YOUR SECURITY IS INTACT, COMMISSIONER!

NOT TO WORRY, YOUR HONOR! THE PREMISES HAVE BEEN GONE OVER BY EXPERTS FOR BOMBS!



"I'VE GOT EVERY ROAD LEADING TO THE GROUNDS BLOCKED..."

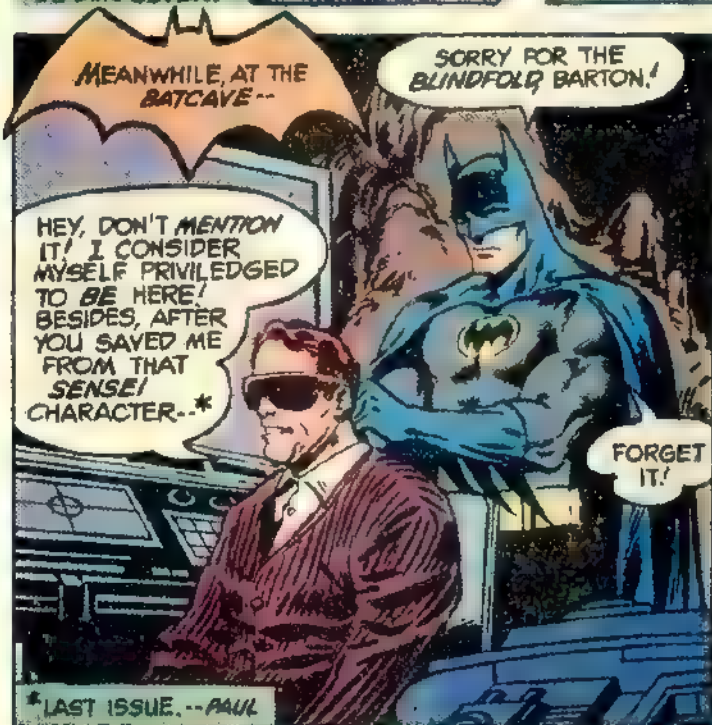




"--AND I'VE GOT CHOPPERS ARMED WITH EVERYTHING FROM MISSILES TO BEAN SHOOTERS GIVING US AIR COVER!"

NOBODY WILL GET WITHIN A MILE OF THEIR HOLINESSES! YOU HAVE MY WORD!

THAT'S BETTER THAN GOLD WITH ME, JIM!



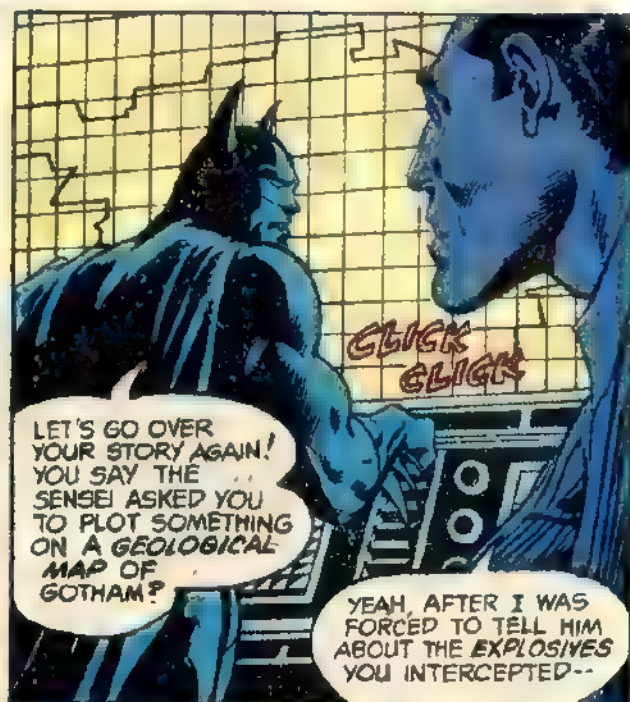
MEANWHILE, AT THE BATCAVE--

SORRY FOR THE BLINDFOLD, BARTON!

HEY, DON'T MENTION IT! I CONSIDER MYSELF PRIVILEGED TO BE HERE! BESIDES, AFTER YOU SAVED ME FROM THAT SENSEI CHARACTER--\*

FORGET IT!

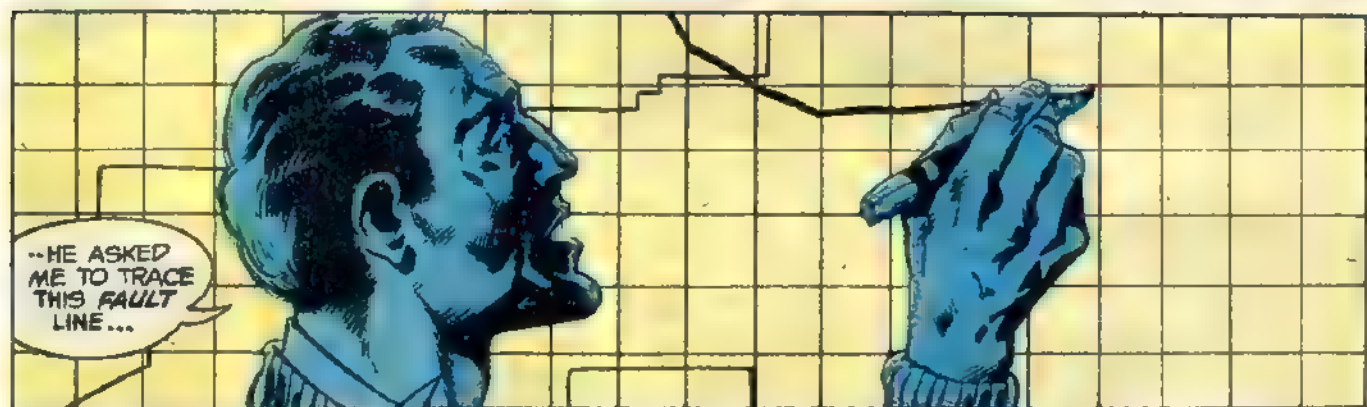
\*LAST ISSUE.--PAUL



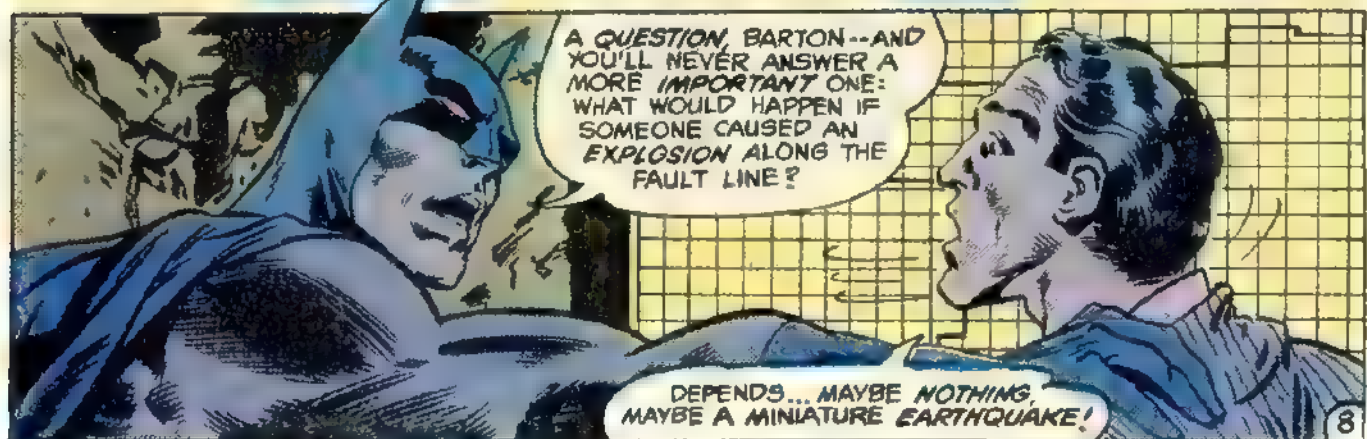
CLICK  
CLICK

LET'S GO OVER YOUR STORY AGAIN! YOU SAY THE SENSEI ASKED YOU TO PLOT SOMETHING ON A GEOLOGICAL MAP OF GOTHAM?

YEAH, AFTER I WAS FORCED TO TELL HIM ABOUT THE EXPLOSIVES YOU INTERCEPTED--



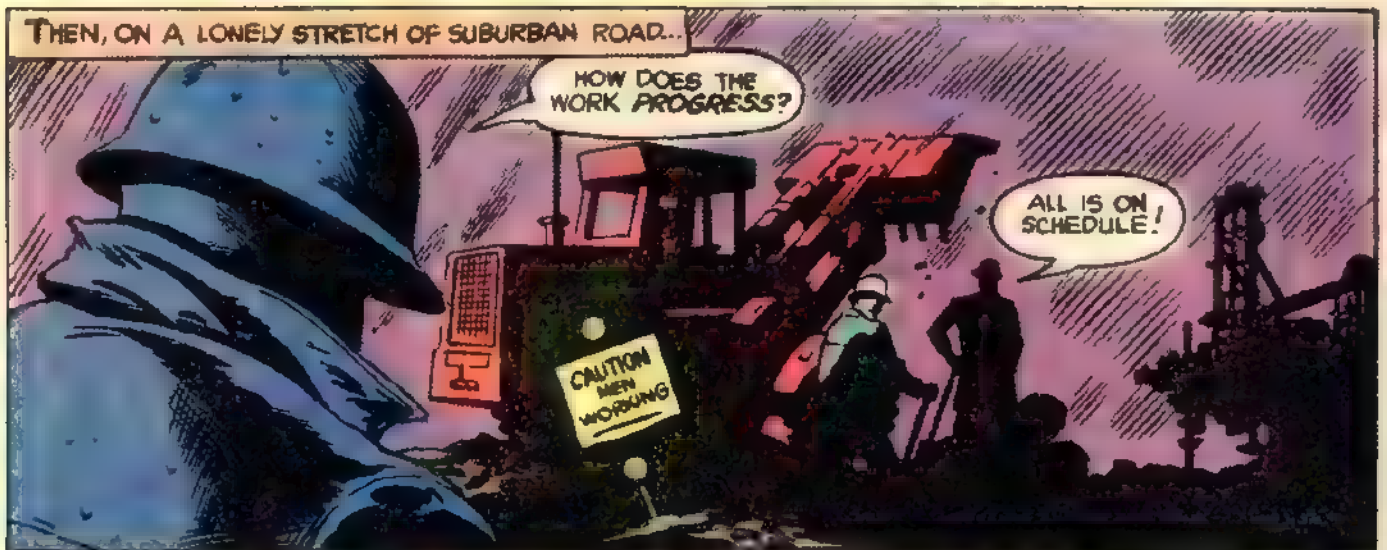
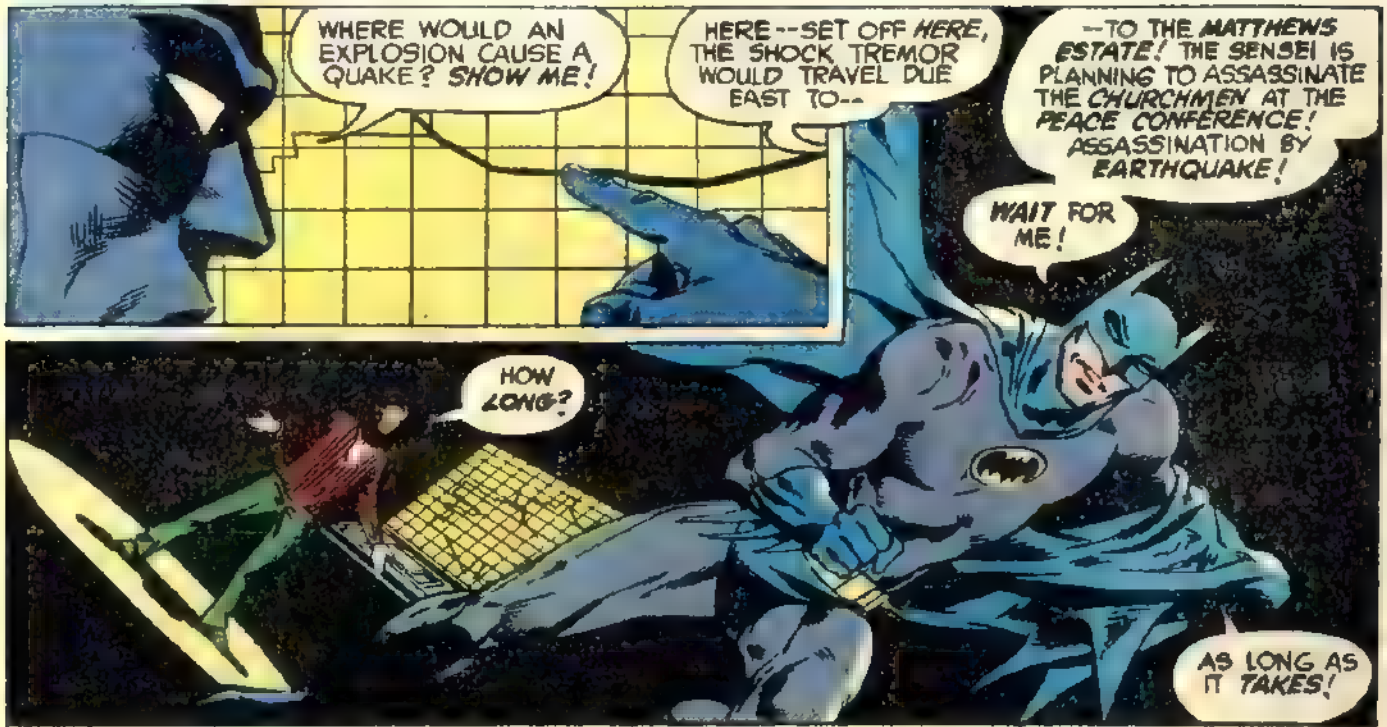
--HE ASKED ME TO TRACE THIS FAULT LINE...



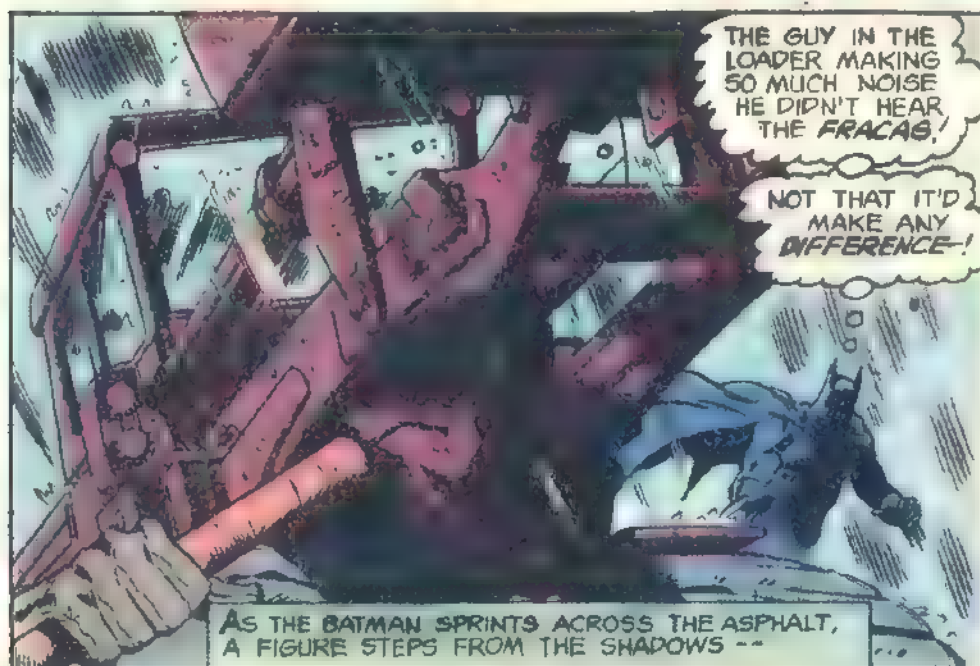
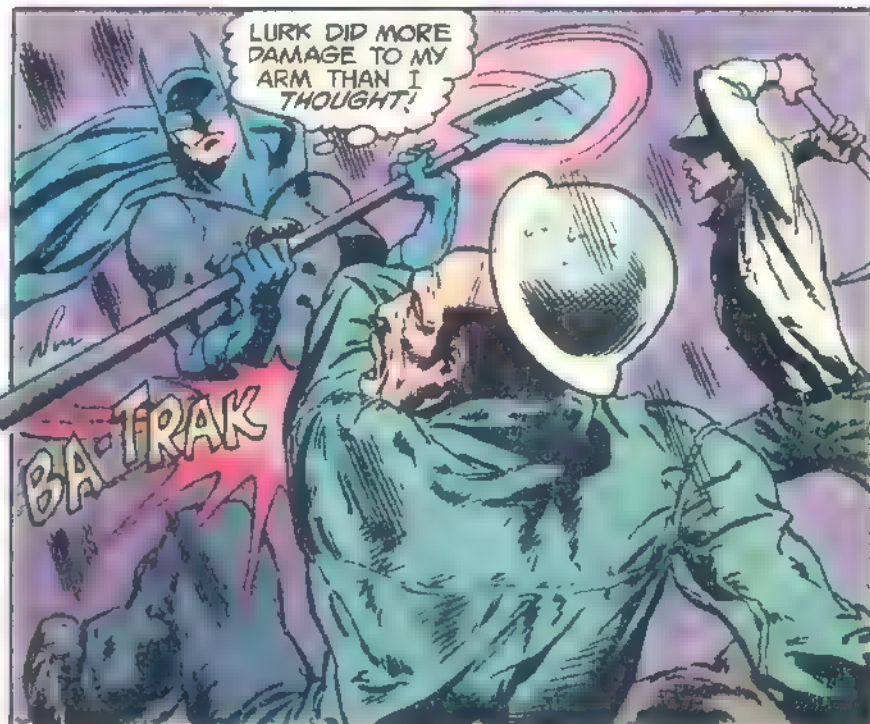
A QUESTION, BARTON--AND YOU'LL NEVER ANSWER A MORE IMPORTANT ONE: WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SOMEONE CAUSED AN EXPLOSION ALONG THE FAULT LINE?

DEPENDS... MAYBE NOTHING, MAYBE A MINIATURE EARTHQUAKE!











THE METRONOMIC NOISE  
OF THE MACHINERY IS  
DEAFENING--

WHUMP  
WHUMP  
WHUMP

RUNCH

YOU'VE BEEN  
DRIVING EXPLOSIVE  
CAPSULES INTO AN  
EARTH FISSURE!  
IS THERE A TIMER  
ATTACHED TO THEM?

Y-YES...

--AND SO THE  
SILENCE WHICH  
FOLLOWS IT IS  
LIKE A PHYSICAL  
BLOW!

SET TO  
GO OFF  
WHEN?

IN  
ABOUT  
THIRTY  
MINUTES!

THEN I HAVE THAT  
LONG TO DEACTIVATE  
THEM! SHOULD  
BE PLENTY--

FROM THE CORNER  
OF HIS VISION THE  
BATMAN GLIMPSES  
A THROWN OBJECT--

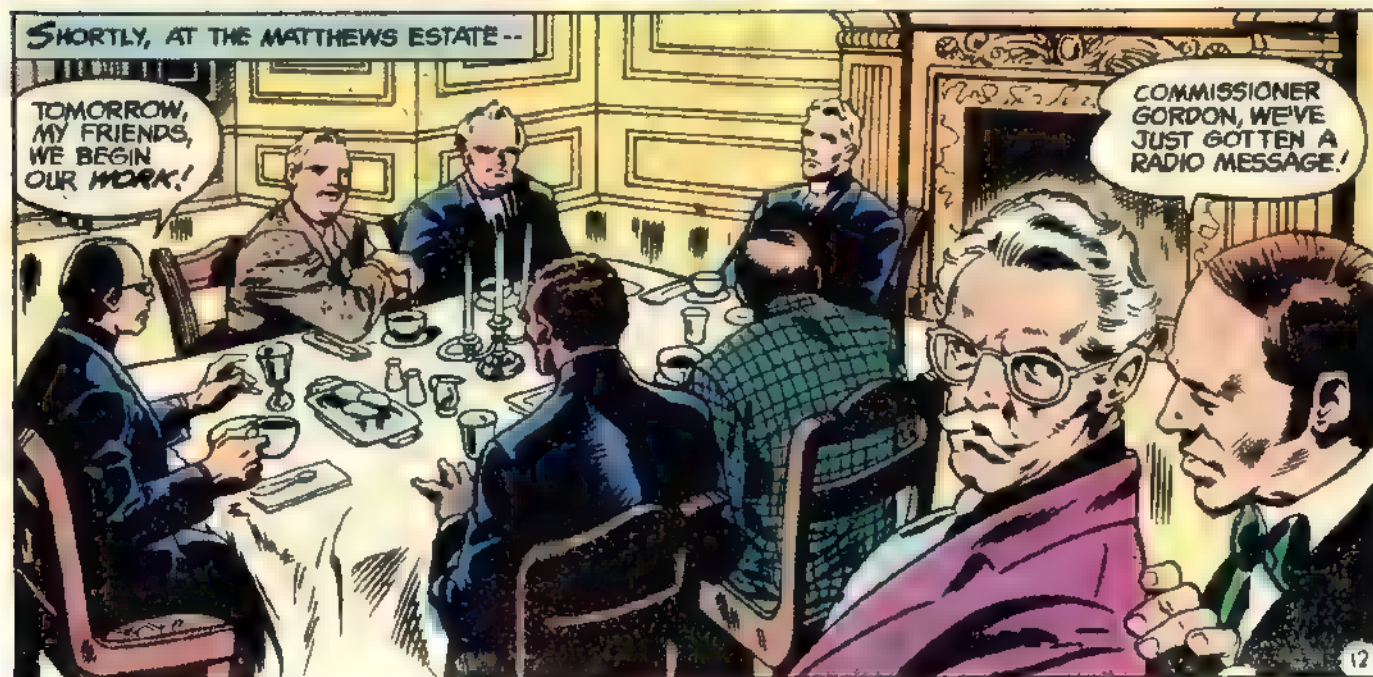
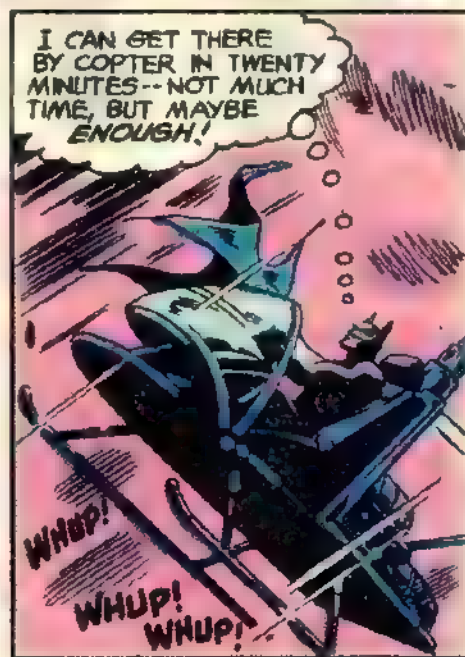
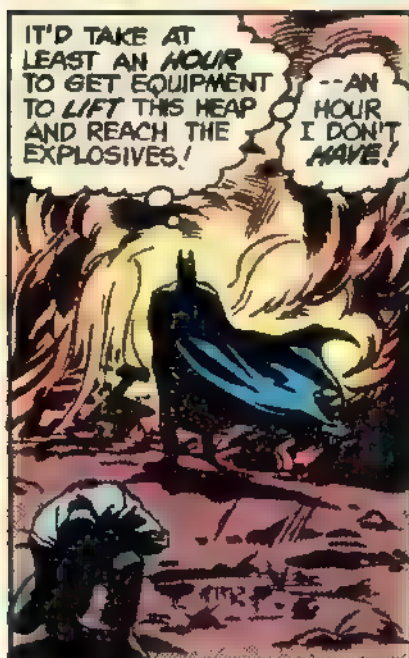
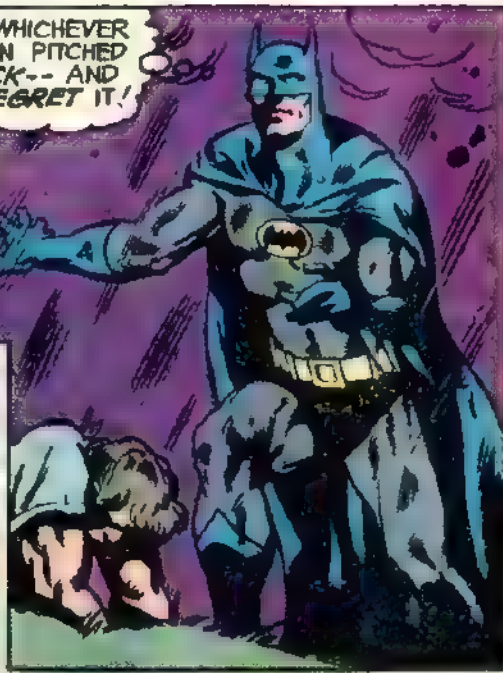
--AND REACTS  
INSTINCTIVELY...



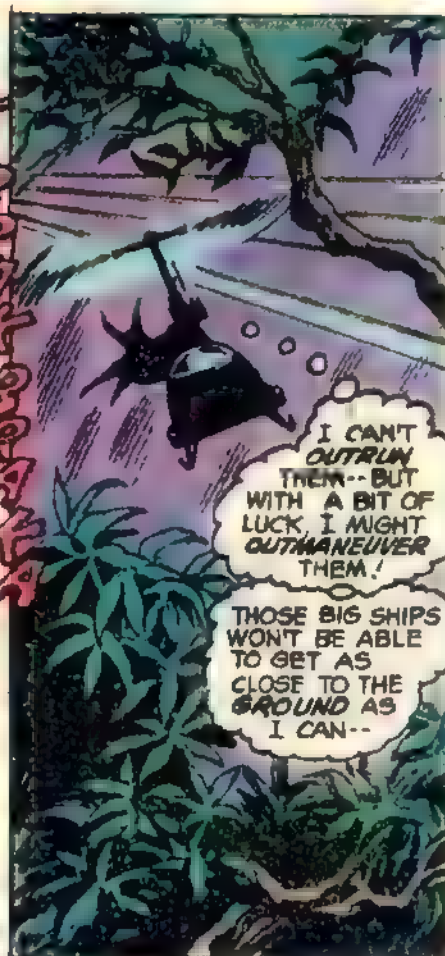
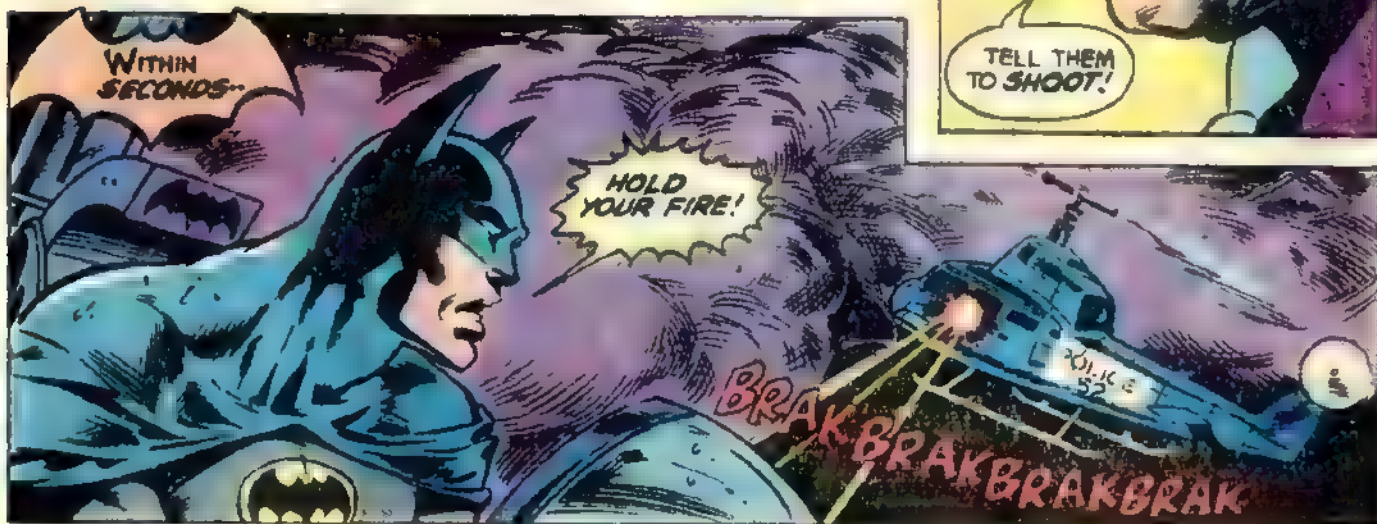
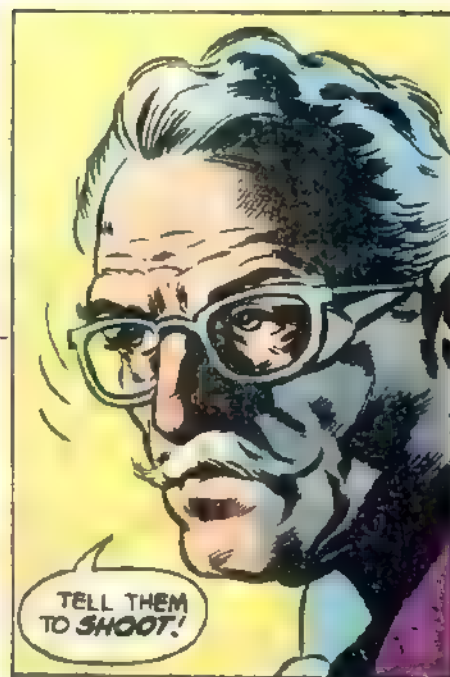
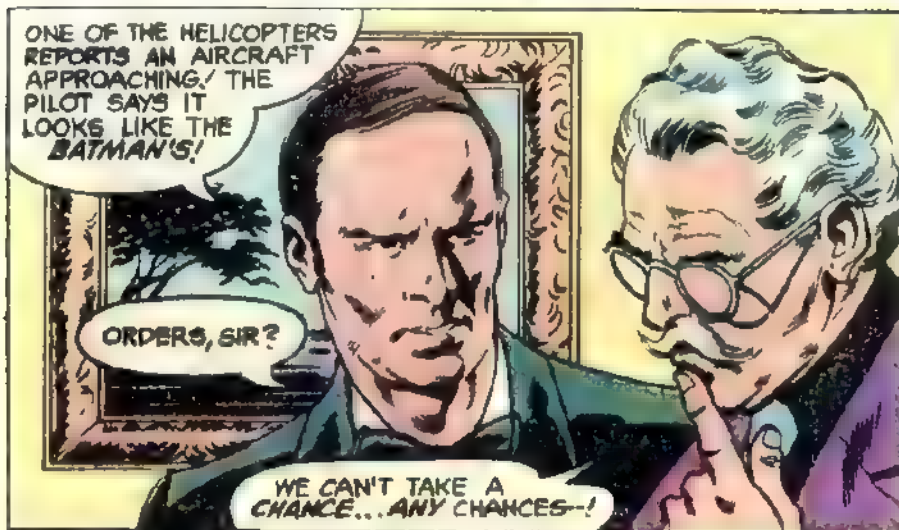


I'D LIKE TO CHASE WHICHEVER OF THE SENSEI'S MEN PITCHED THAT DYNAMITE STICK-- AND PERSUADE HIM TO REGRET IT!

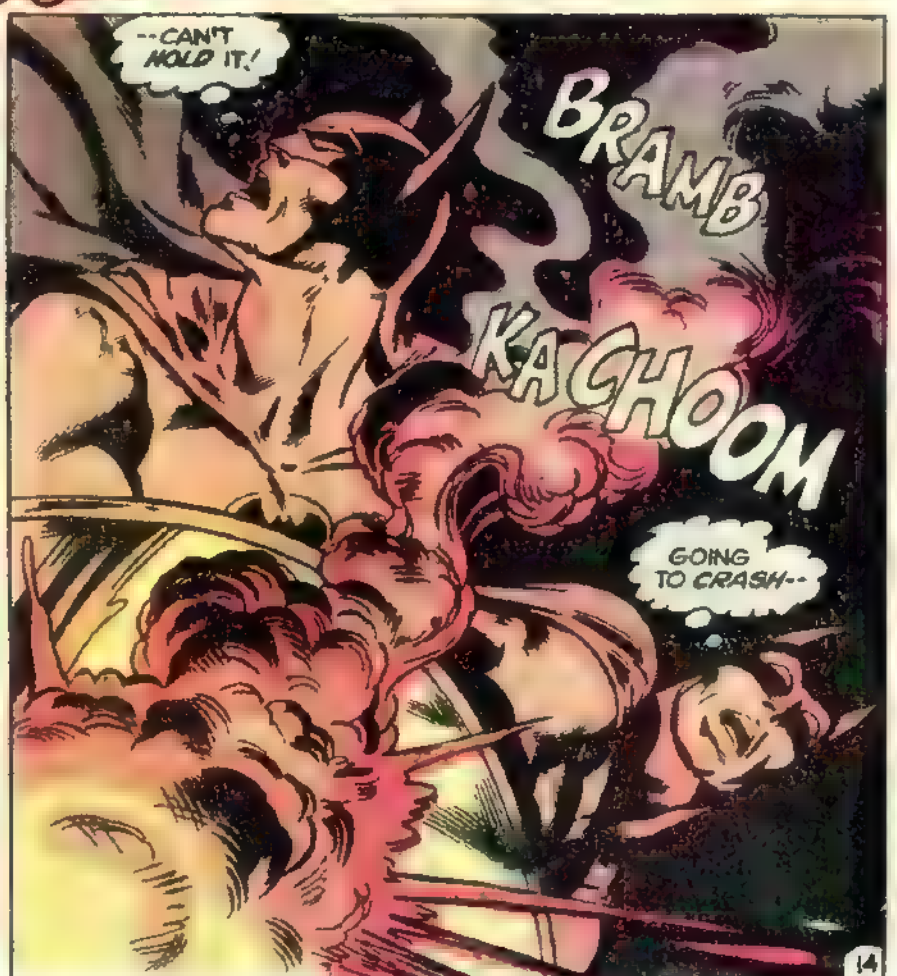
BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT!



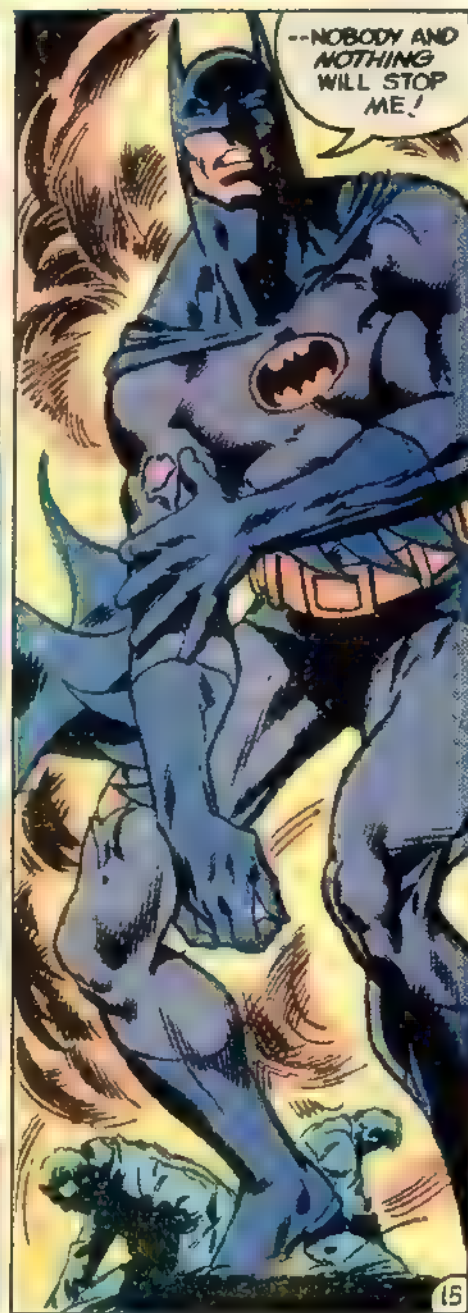
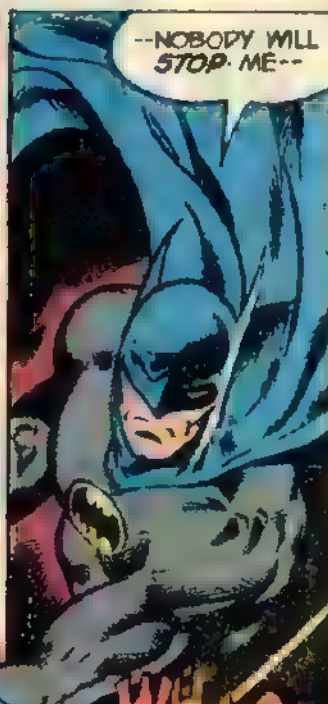
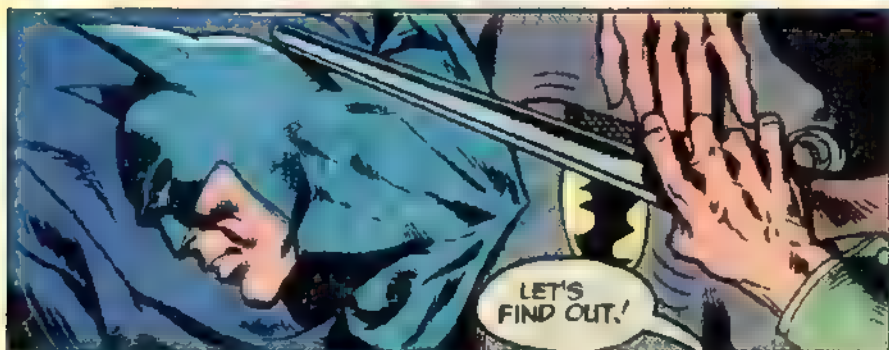
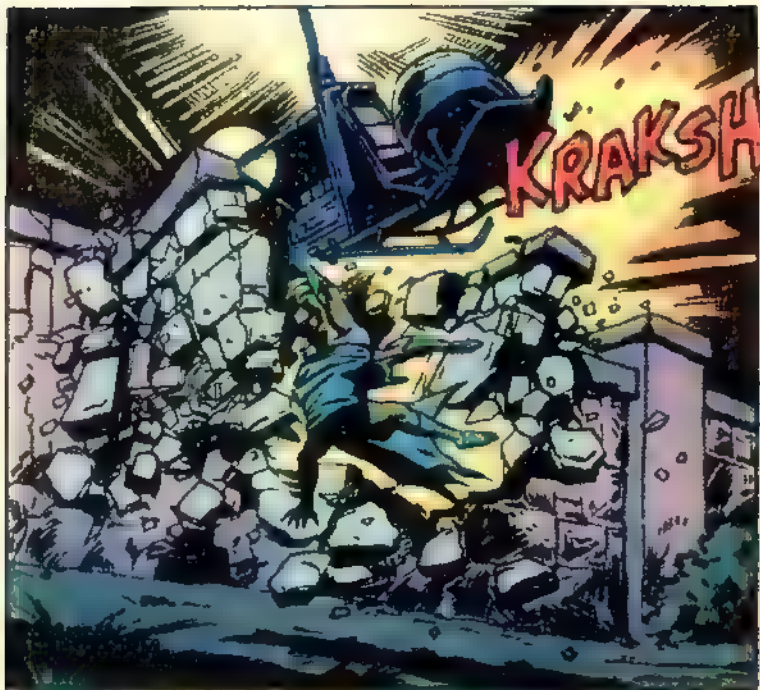




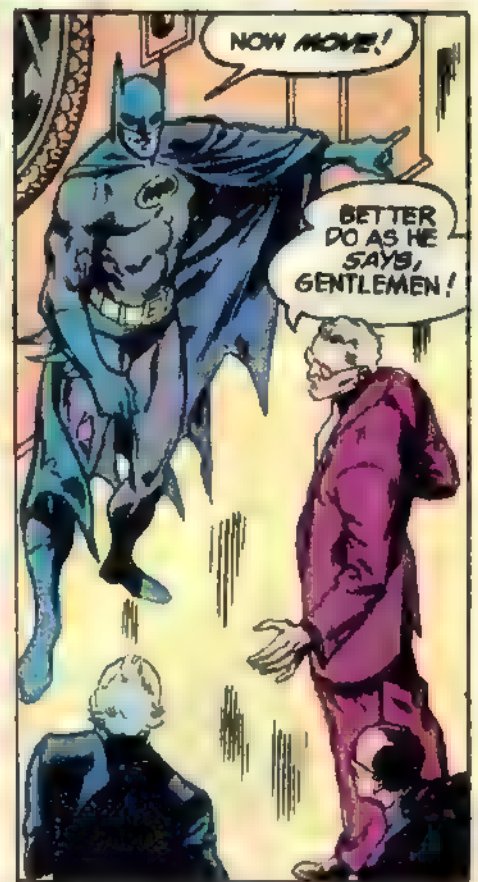
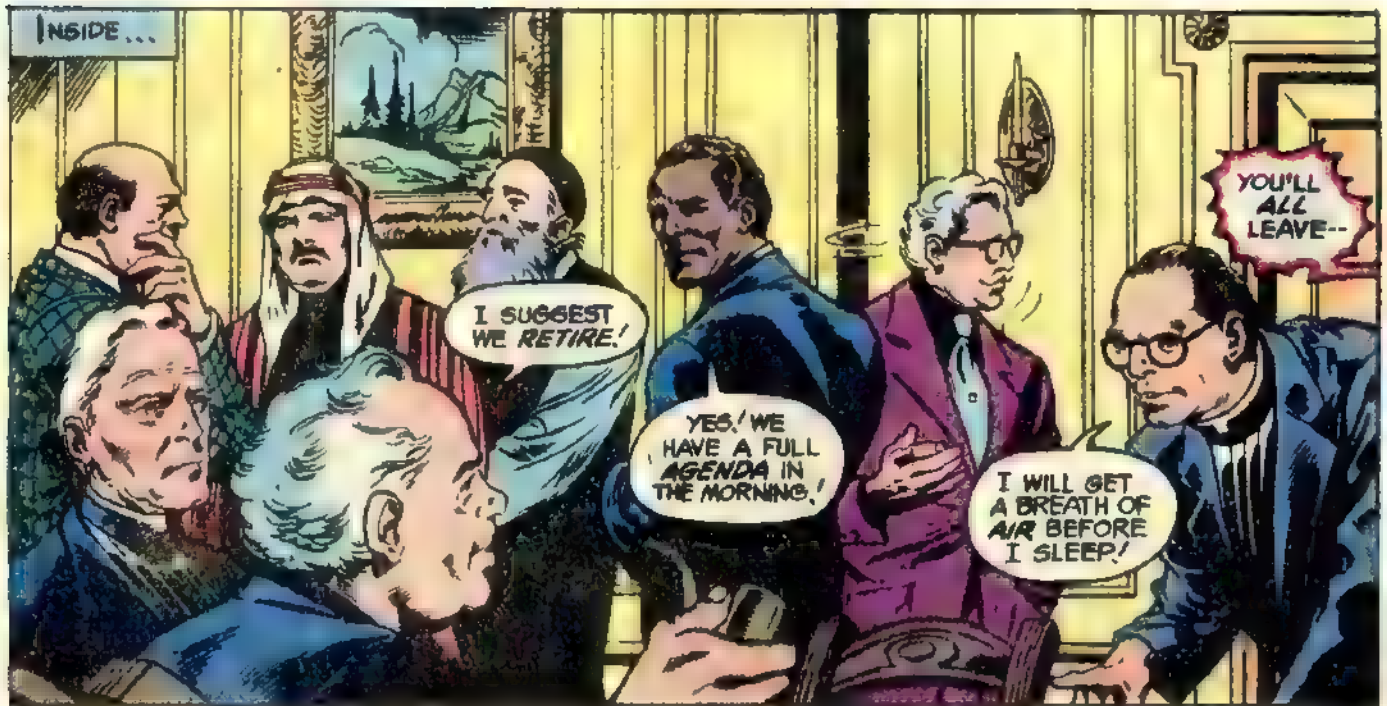
















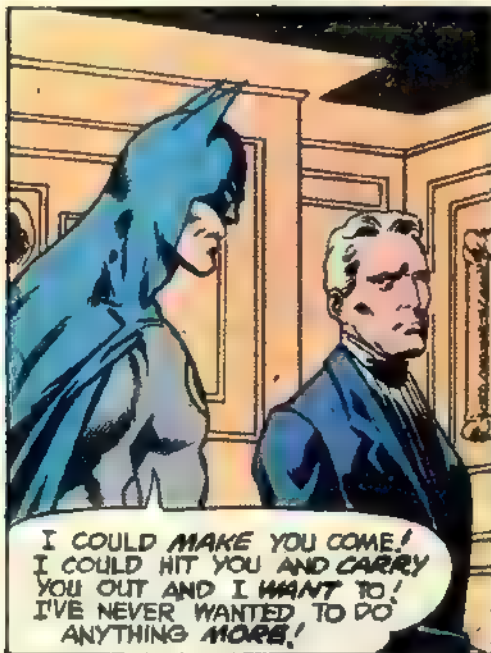
I HAVE BEEN BEATEN. I HAVE BEEN SHOT. I'VE BEEN SUBJECTED TO FISTS AND BULLETS AND ROCKETS AND DYNAMITE--



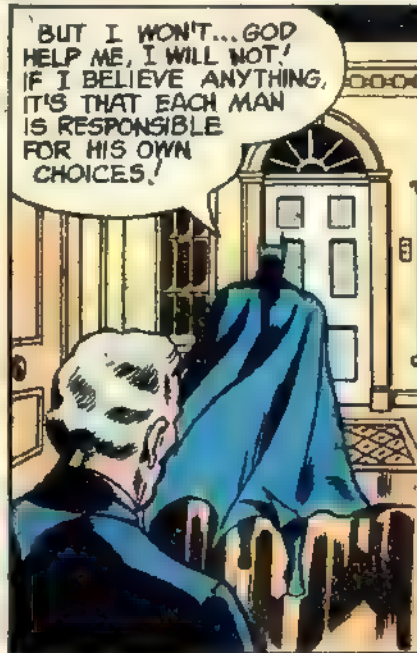
--IN ORDER TO SAVE YOUR LIFE--



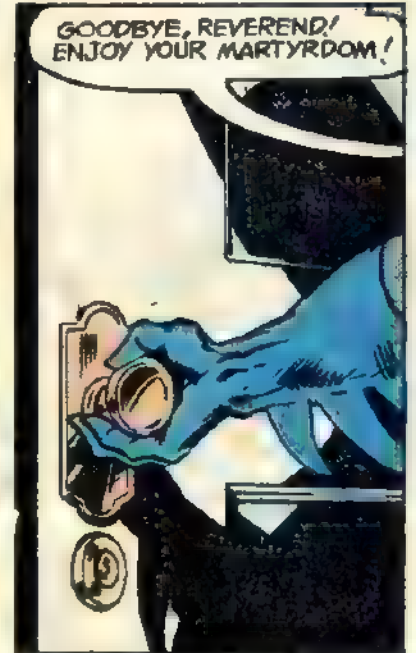
--AND YOU DARE... YOU DARE *REFUSE* TO HAVE IT SAVED?



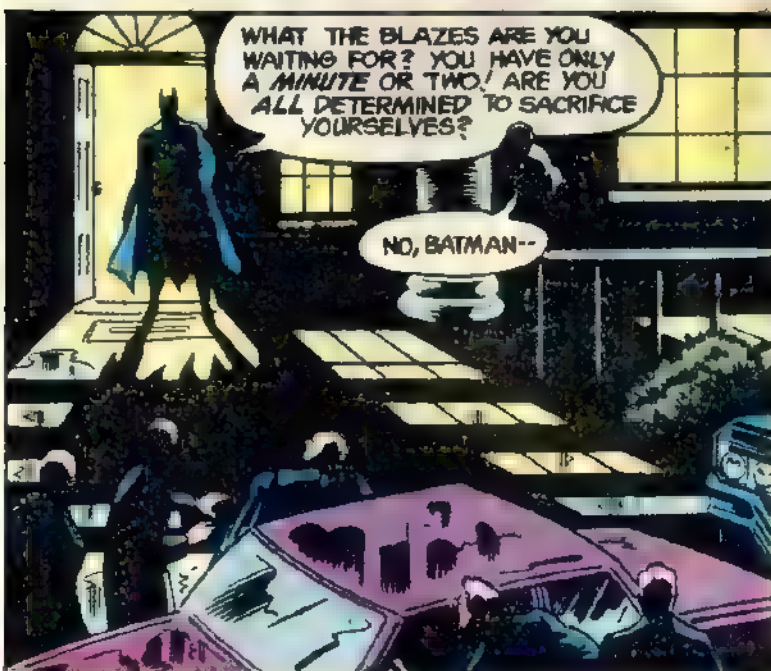
I COULD *MAKE* YOU COME! I COULD HIT YOU AND CARRY YOU OUT AND I WANT TO! I'VE NEVER WANTED TO DO ANYTHING *MORE*!



BUT I WON'T... GOD HELP ME, I WILL NOT! IF I BELIEVE ANYTHING, IT'S THAT EACH MAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OWN CHOICES!



GOODBYE, REVEREND! ENJOY YOUR MARTYRDOM!



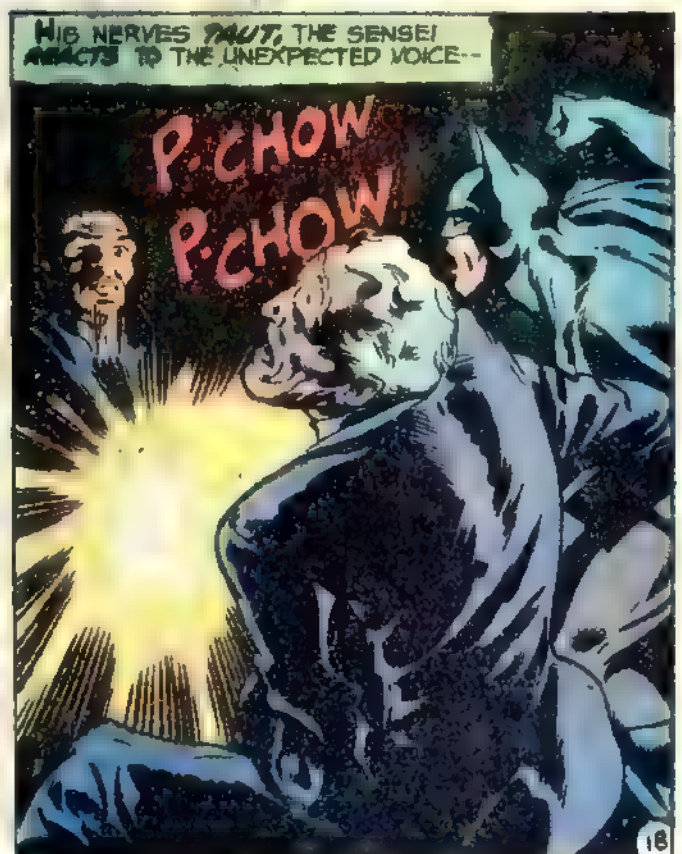
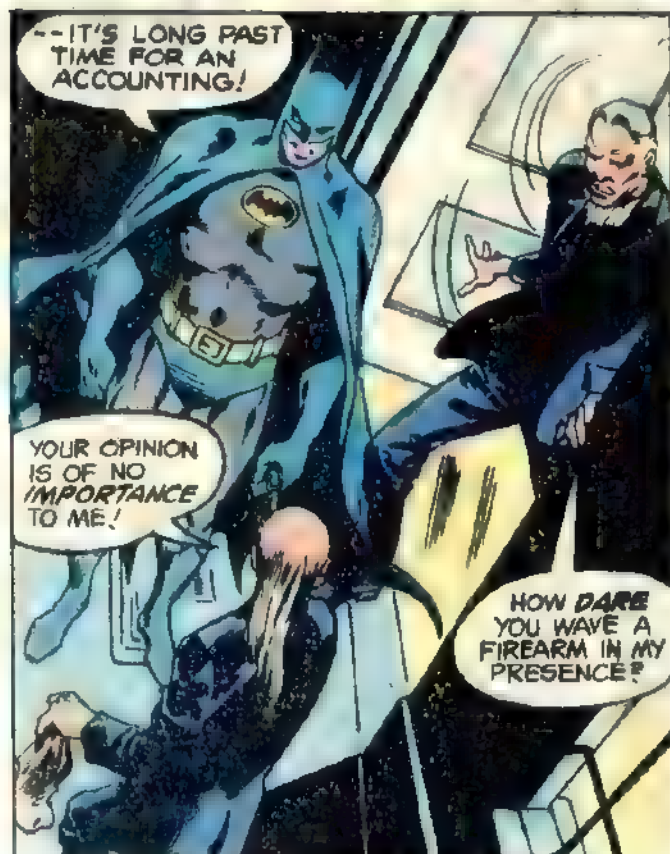
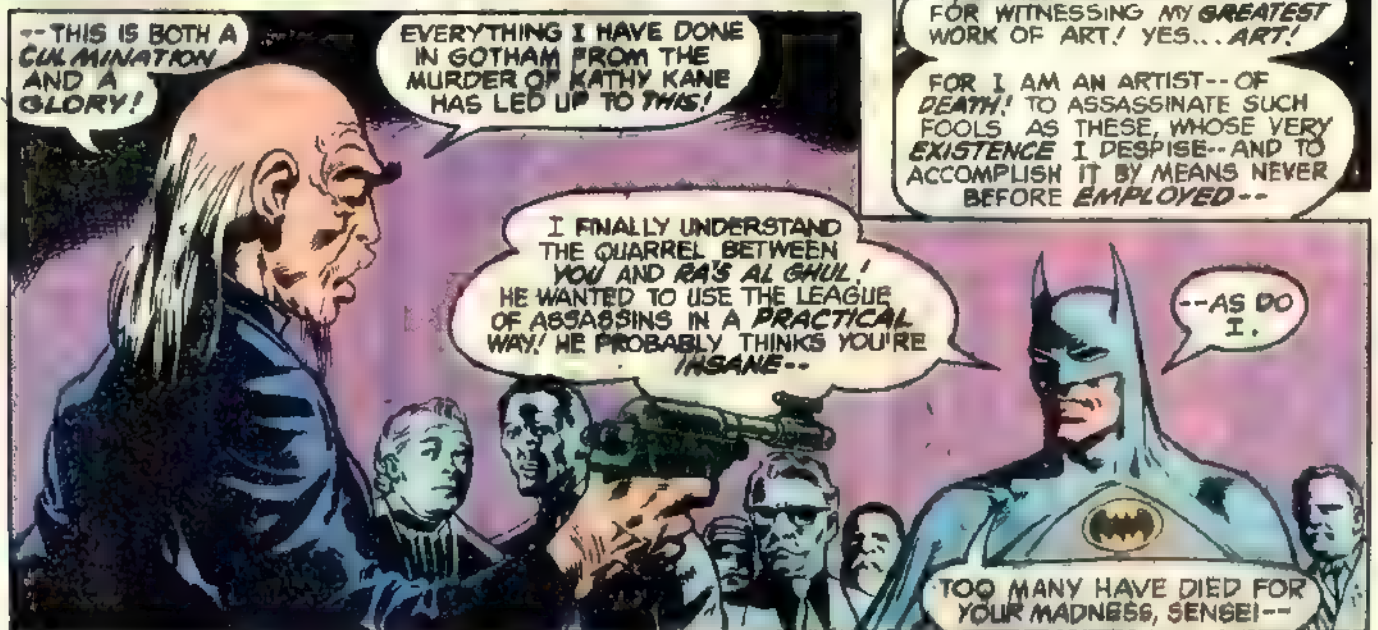
WHAT THE BLAZES ARE YOU WAITING FOR? YOU HAVE ONLY A *MINUTE* OR TWO! ARE YOU ALL DETERMINED TO SACRIFICE YOURSELVES?

NO, BATMAN--



--I AM DETERMINED TO SACRIFICE THEM!







AND AS THE BATMAN'S FIST STRIKES THE SENSEI, A JOLT OF ALMOST UNBEARABLE AGONY RIPS UP HIS ARM...

DIDN'T REALIZE ... TENDONS IN MY SHOULDER TORN... PAIN MAKING ME DIZZY...

ARE YOU COMING WITH US, BATMAN?

NO... THE SENSEI ESCAPED INTO THE HOUSE! I'M GOING AFTER HIM!

BUT THE DANGER...

GORDON, WILL YOU PLEASE NOT ARGUE WITH ME? WILL YOU PLEASE GET INTO THE CAR?

THIRTY SECONDS LATER...

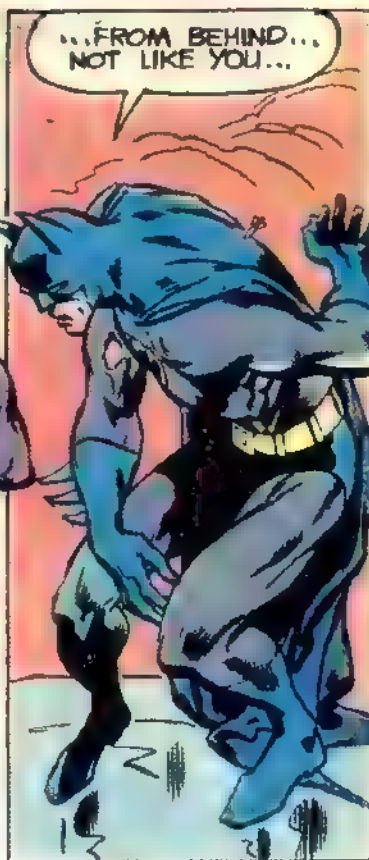
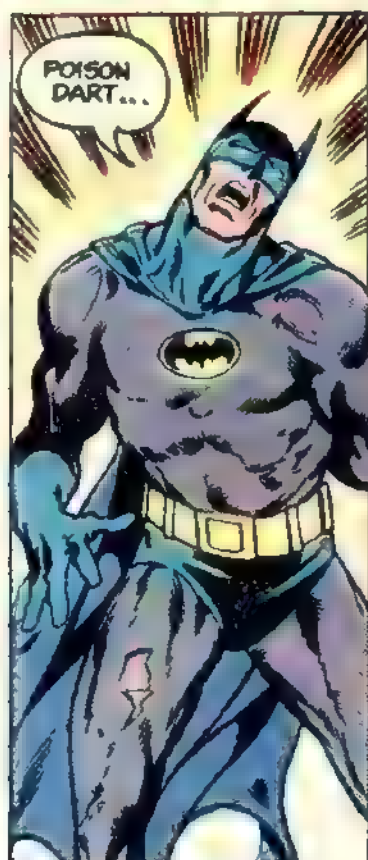
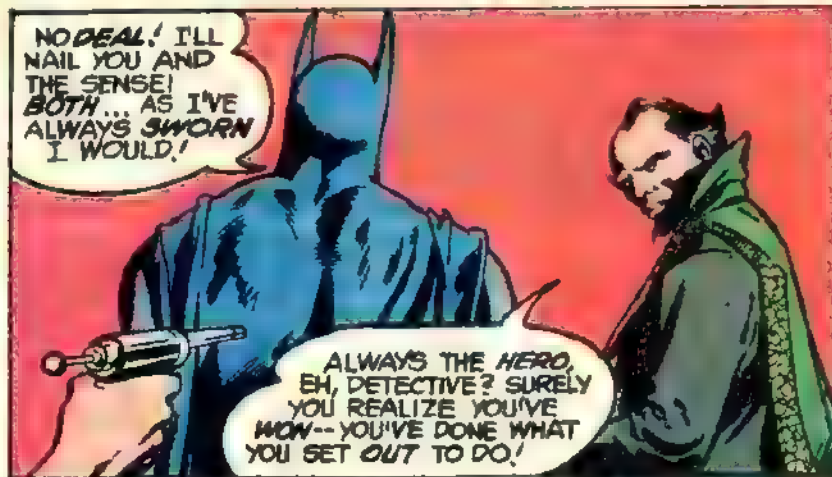
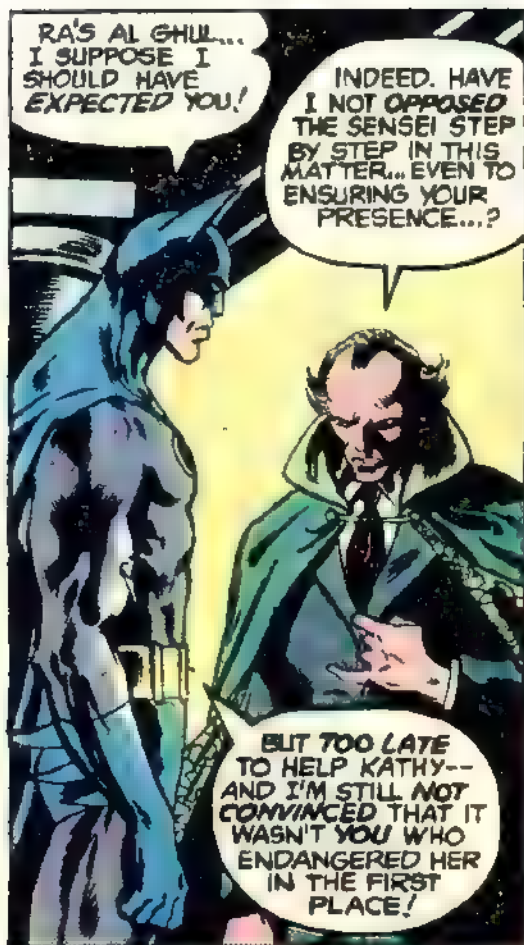
I GUESS WE'RE FINALLY NO DIFFERENT, REVEREND! I'M WILLING TO BE A MARTYR FOR MY PRINCIPLES, TOO!

I VOWED THE SENSEI WILL NOT GO UNPUNISHED... AND I'LL DIE FOR THAT VOW IF I MUST!

BUT IT IS NOT NECESSARY, DETECTIVE!

YOU!







RAS AL GHUL'S REPLY IS LOST--!

FOR SECONDS EARLIER,  
THE BURIED EXPLOSIVES  
DETONATED --

--SENDING SHOCK WAVES  
SPEEDING TOWARD THE  
MATTHEWS ESTATE...

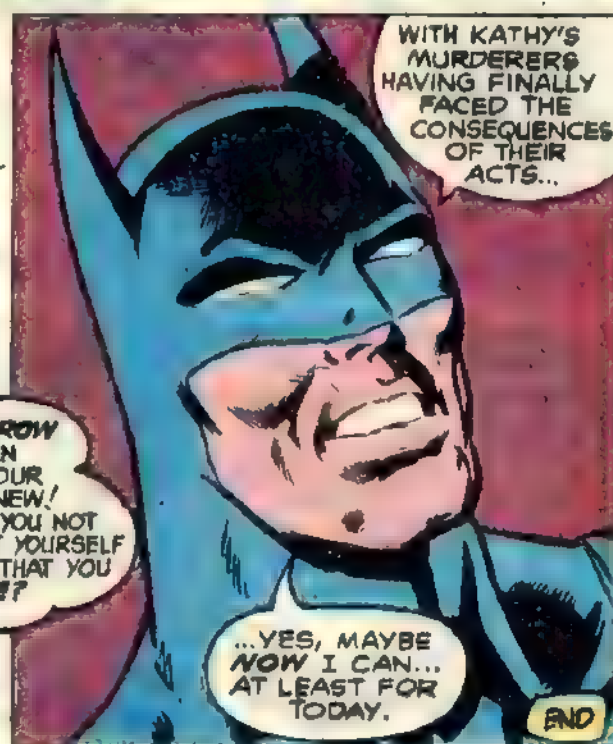
SOME SAY THIS MOMENT WAS FOREDAINED,  
THIS INSTANT OF DESTRUCTION --

--AS INEVITABLE AS THE  
SIGH OF THE DYING OR THE  
CRY OF THE NEWLY BORN...

INEVITABLE--OR MERELY  
THE WHIM OF CHANCE...

--IT DOES NOT MATTER, NOT REALLY...







# BATMAN

## SON OF THE DEMON



BY MIKE W. BARR  
AND JERRY BINGHAM



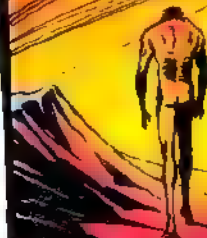
THEN

THE EARTH  
SCREAMS, LIKE  
A WOMAN GIVING  
BIRTH..



...AND THE OLD/NEWBORN  
STALKS OFF, HIS  
SHOULDERS HUNCHED..

...AS IF AGAINST  
THE ONSLAUGHT OF  
SOME COMING  
STORM.



NOW



"SWAT-3 TO GOTHAM-1,  
WE HAVE SECURED  
POSITION AT THE BACK OF  
THE GOTHAM CHEMICAL  
PLANT. WILL WE CHARGE  
THE PLANT, REPEAT, WILL  
WE --"

GOTHAM-1 TO  
SWAT-3, NEGATIVE.  
UNDER NO CONDITIONS  
ARE YOU TO ASSAULT  
THE PLANT.



... THE INSURGENTS HAVE HOSTAGES,  
AND ACCESS TO DEADLY CHEMICALS.  
WE ARE AWAITING ARRIVAL OF  
NEGOTIATING TEAMS. TAKE NO ACTION,  
REPEAT, NO ACTION. "

LOOKS LIKE THEY BELIEVE  
US, THEY'RE STAYING AWAY.

THEY'D BETTER.  
IF IT RAINS, AND WE RELEASE THAT  
TOXIC GUNK INTO THE WATER SUPPLY...  
WELL, THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE.

BACK IN  
LINE, YOU!  
NOW!

ANY WORD ON THE  
SEARCH PARTY?  
THEY HAVING ANY  
LUCK BACK IN THE  
WAREHOUSE?

NO WORD FROM  
THEM YET. WE MAY  
NEED TO BUY A  
LITTLE MORE TIME

DISPERSE, ALL  
OF YOU FIND THE  
OBJECTIVE WHILE  
WE STILL HAVE  
TIME

YOU.  
C'MERE,  
BITCH!

P-PLEASE,  
DON'T...

LISTEN UP, COPS!  
I GOTTA FAT LADY  
HERE! YOU TRY  
ANYTHING, SHE  
BUYS IT! YOU  
FOLLOW?

WELL?

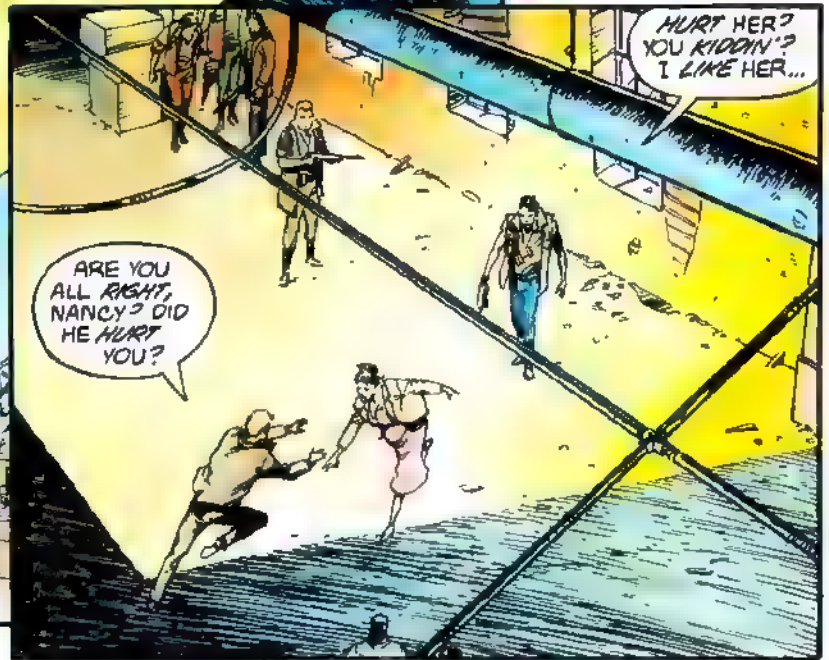
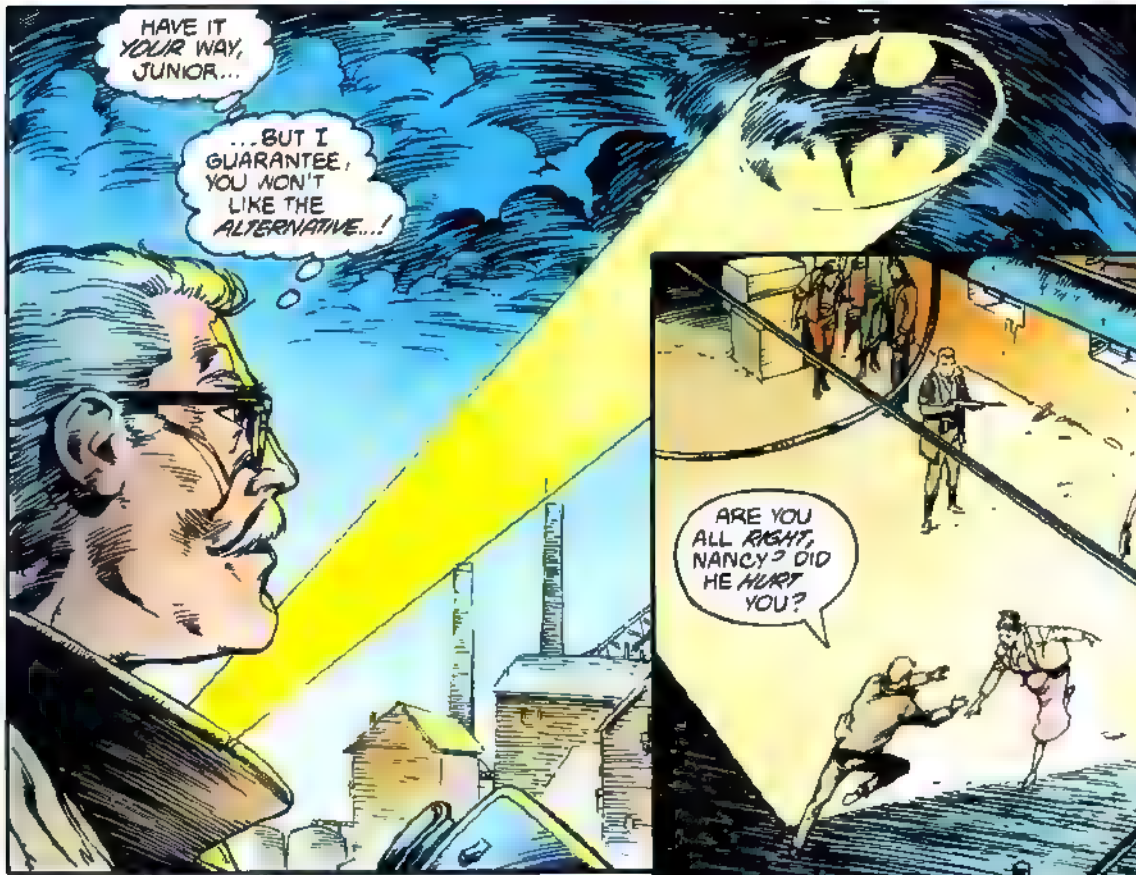
MARK, WHAT  
ARE WE GOING  
TO DO...?

DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT THAT, NANCY.  
KEEP CALM. THINK  
OF THE BABY--

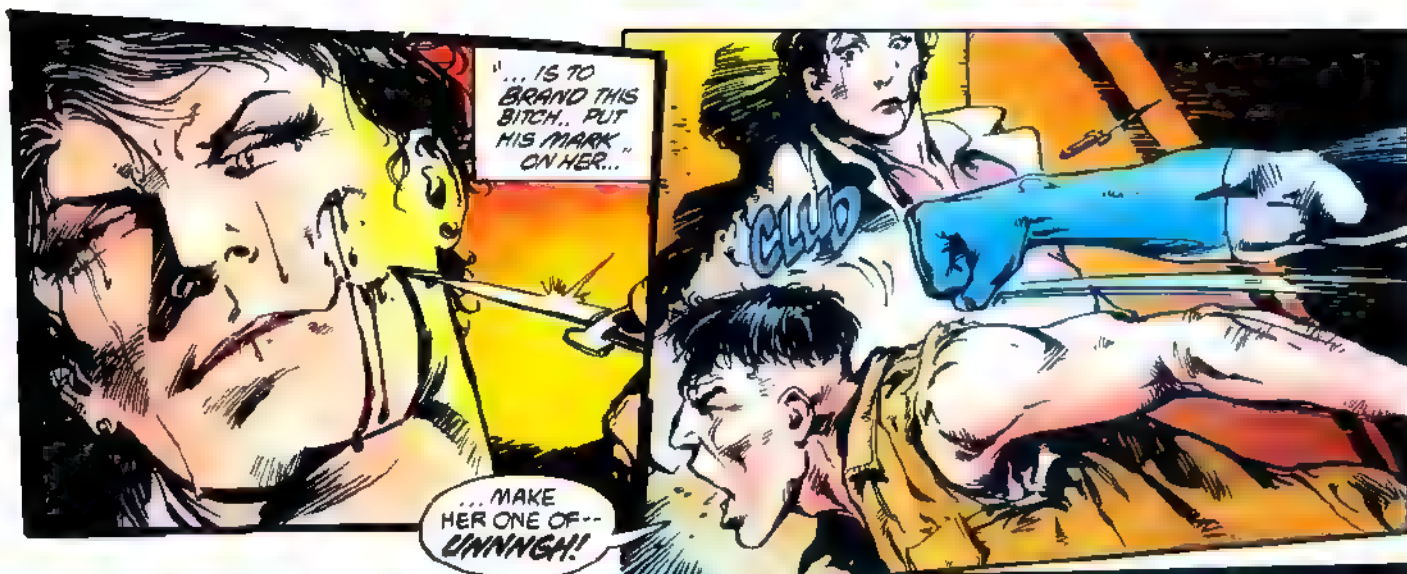
PLEASE, THERE IS  
NO NEED TO HARM  
THE HOSTAGES!  
PROFESSIONAL  
NEGOTIATORS  
ARE ON THEIR  
WAY!

"SCREW YOUR  
'NEGOTIATORS',  
MAN!"



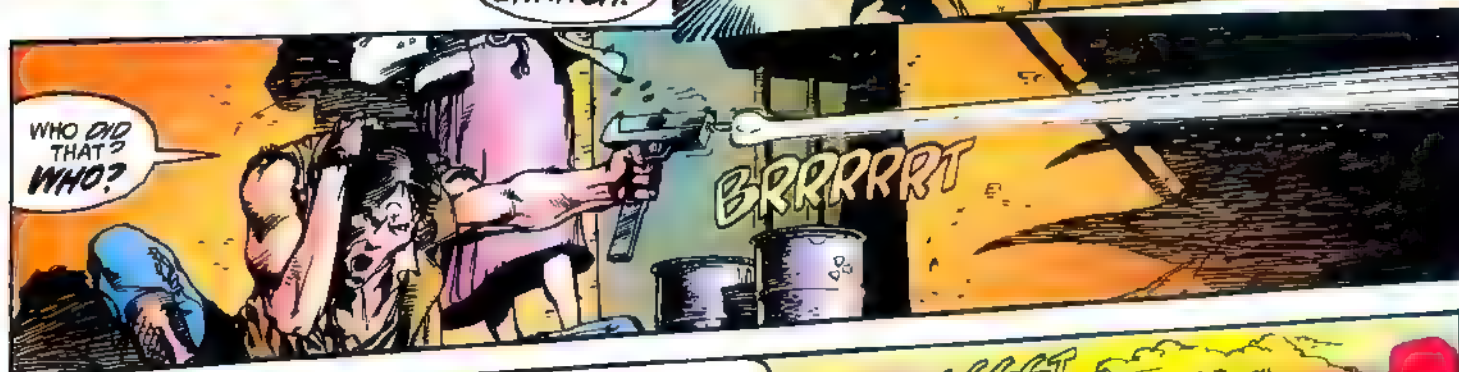






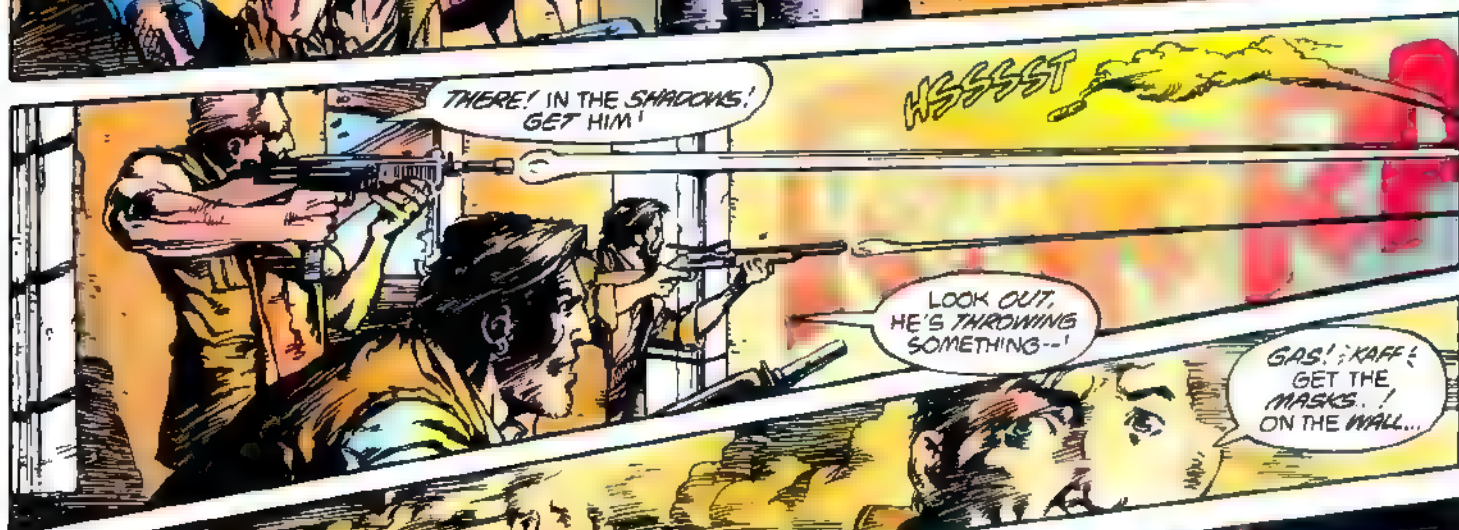
"... IS TO BRAND THIS BITCH.. PUT HIS MARK ON HER..."

... MAKE HER ONE OF-- LUNNIGH!



WHO DID THAT? WHO?

BRRRRRT

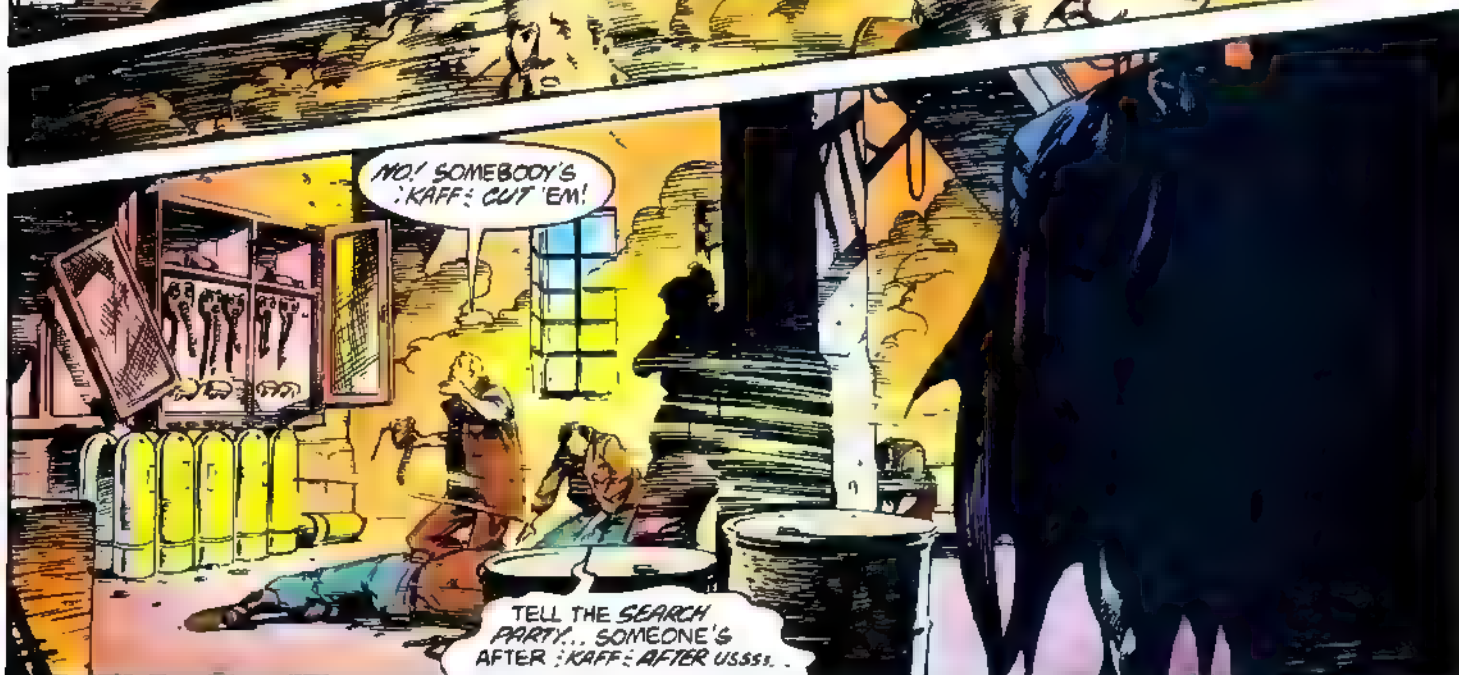


THERE! IN THE SHADOWS! GET HIM!

WSSST

LOOK OUT, HE'S THROWING SOMETHING--!

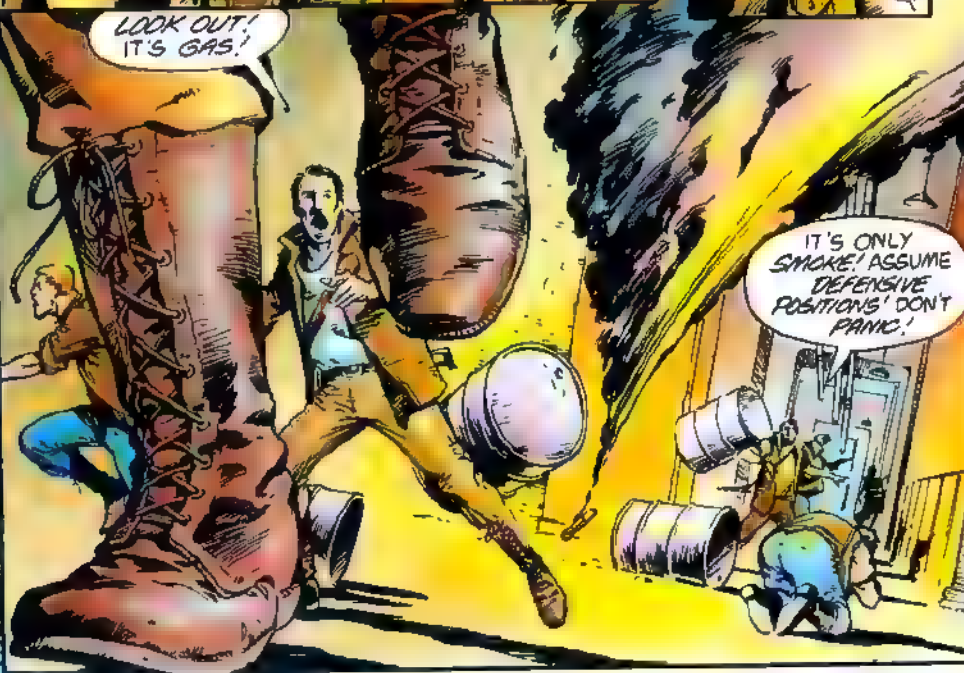
GAS! :KAFF: GET THE MASKS..! ON THE WALL...



NO! SOMEBODY'S :KAFF: CUT 'EM!

TELL THE SEARCH PARTY... SOMEONE'S AFTER :KAFF: AFTER USSS..







"...IT'S  
PROBABLY  
JUST ONE  
MAN..."

"...WE CAN  
HANDLE HIM!  
STAY CALM..."

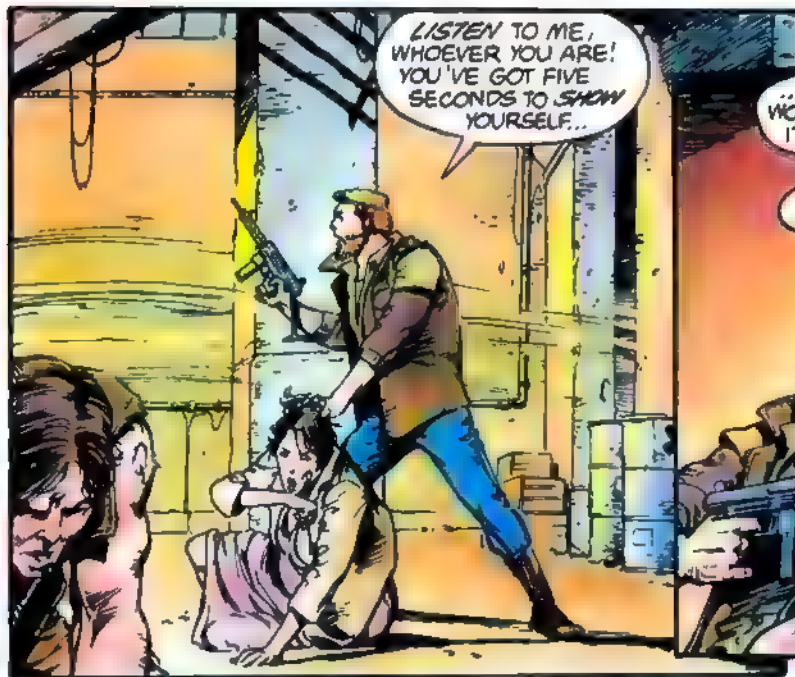
"REMEMBER YOUR  
PARTNER..."

"... ALWAYS KEEP  
HIM IN VIEW..."

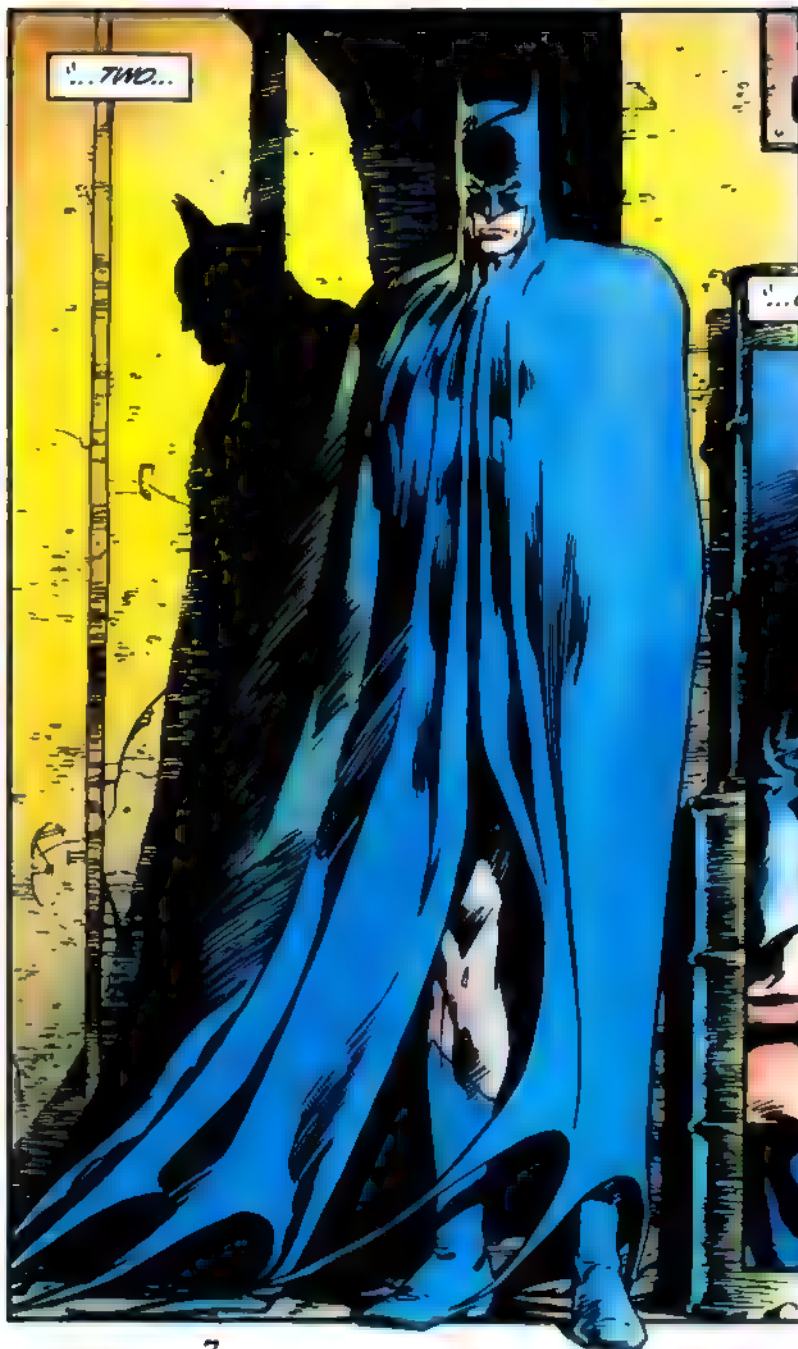
HE'S ONE  
MAN, ONLY...

JESUS...!

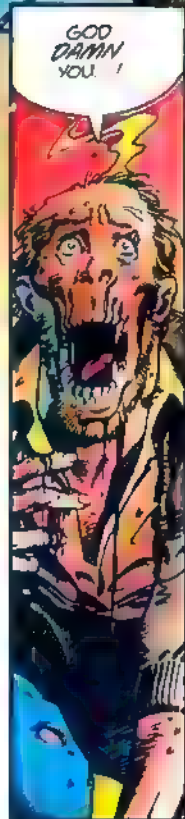




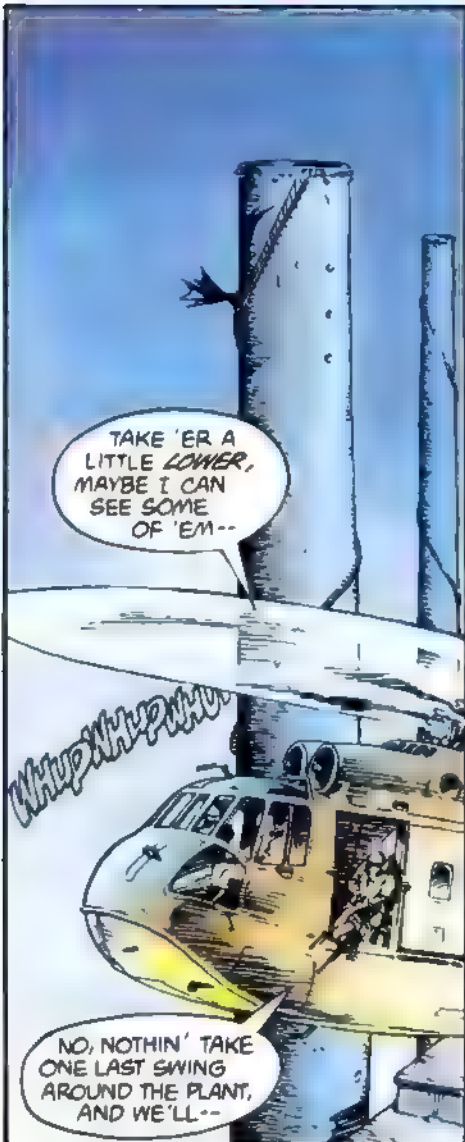
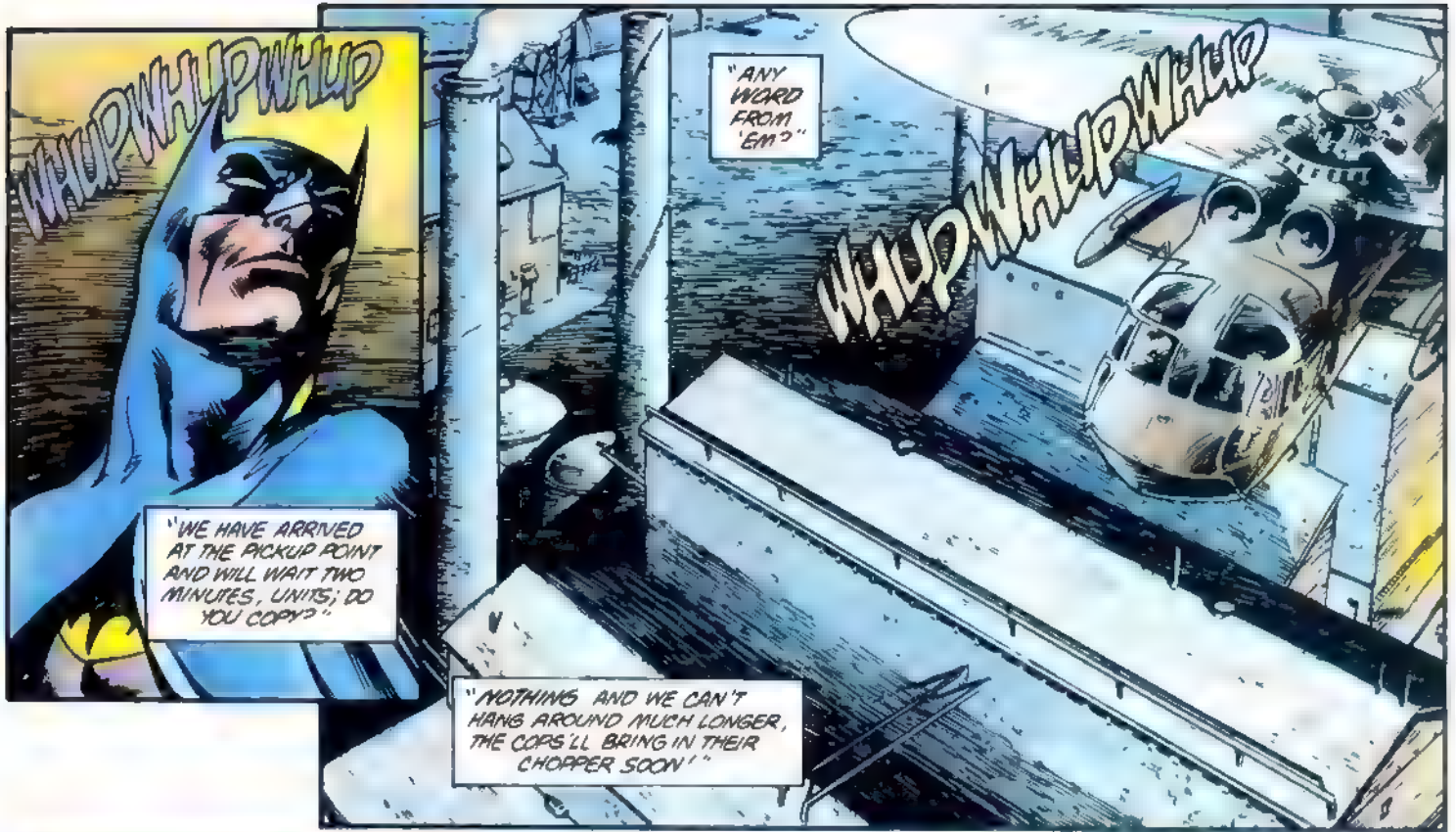
... THREE...









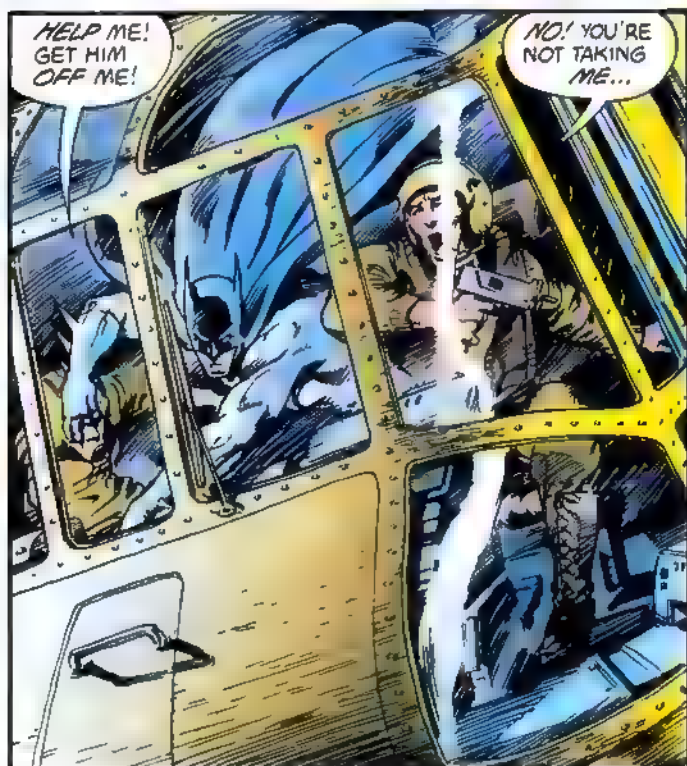
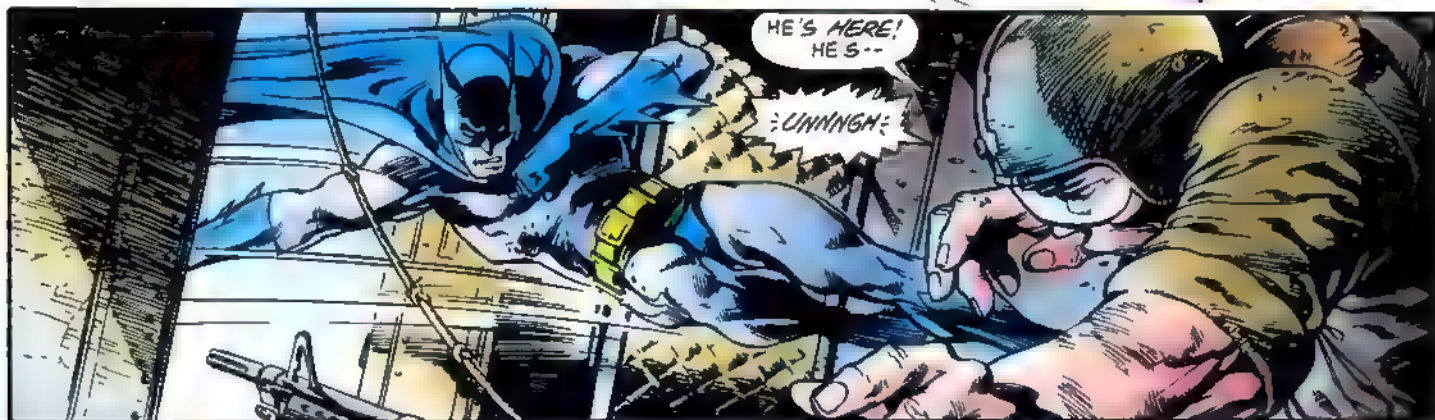




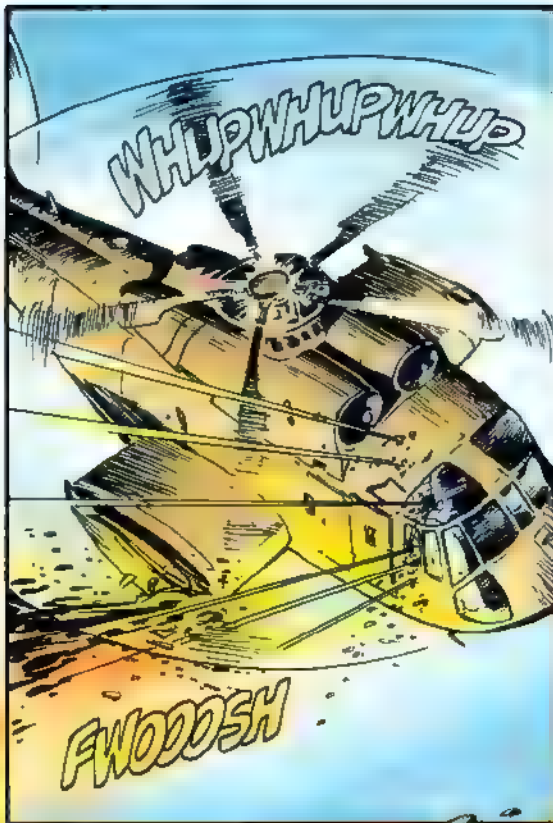


STOP IT, YOU TWO! SAVE THAT FOR--

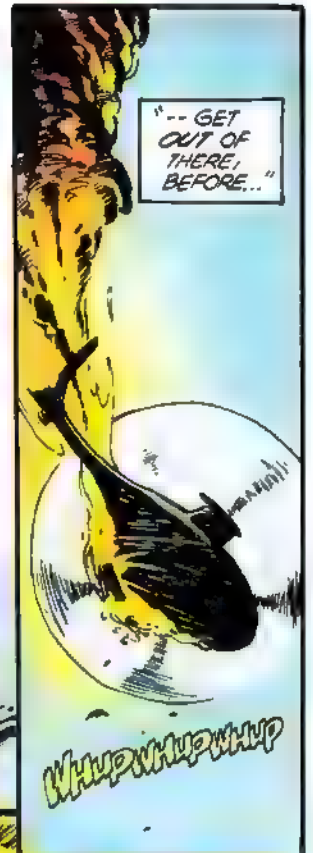
THERE! GET HIM BEFORE HE--



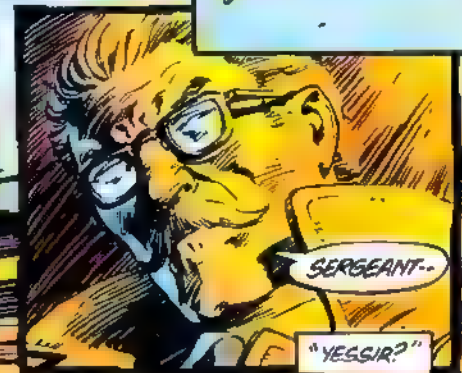
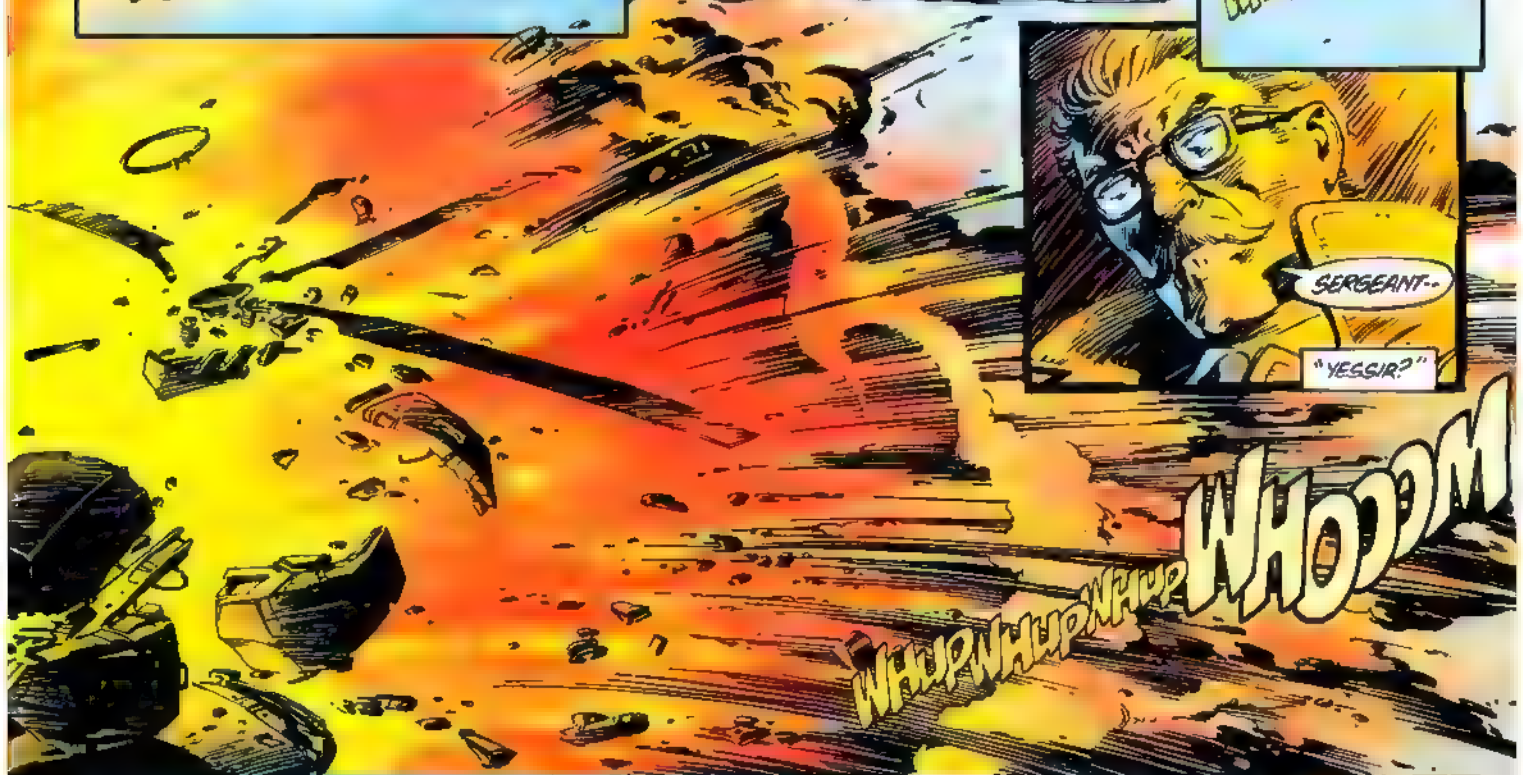




DAMN IT, WHERE'S OUR CHOPPER? THEIR FUEL TANK'S GONE UP! FORGET ABOUT PRISONERS, BATMAN--

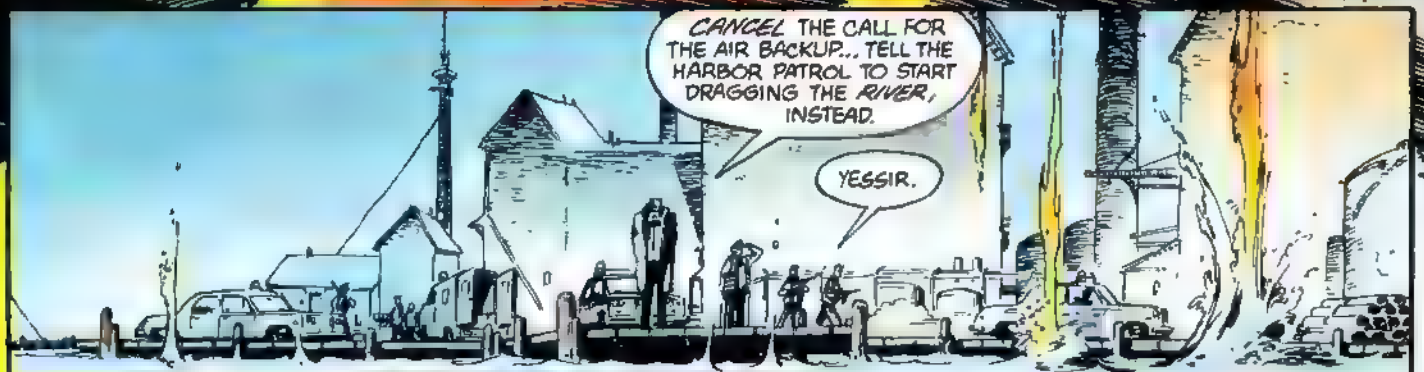


"-- GET OUT OF THERE, BEFORE..."



SERGEANT--

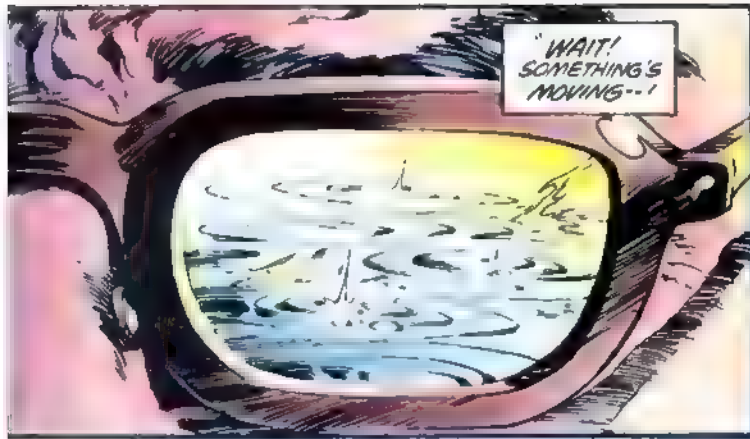
"YESSIR?"



CANCEL THE CALL FOR THE AIR BACKUP... TELL THE HARBOR PATROL TO START DRAGGING THE RIVER, INSTEAD.

YESSIR.





"STEP ON THAT HARBOR PATROL BOAT, SERGEANT-- AND WAIT FOR ME!"

"YESSIR!"

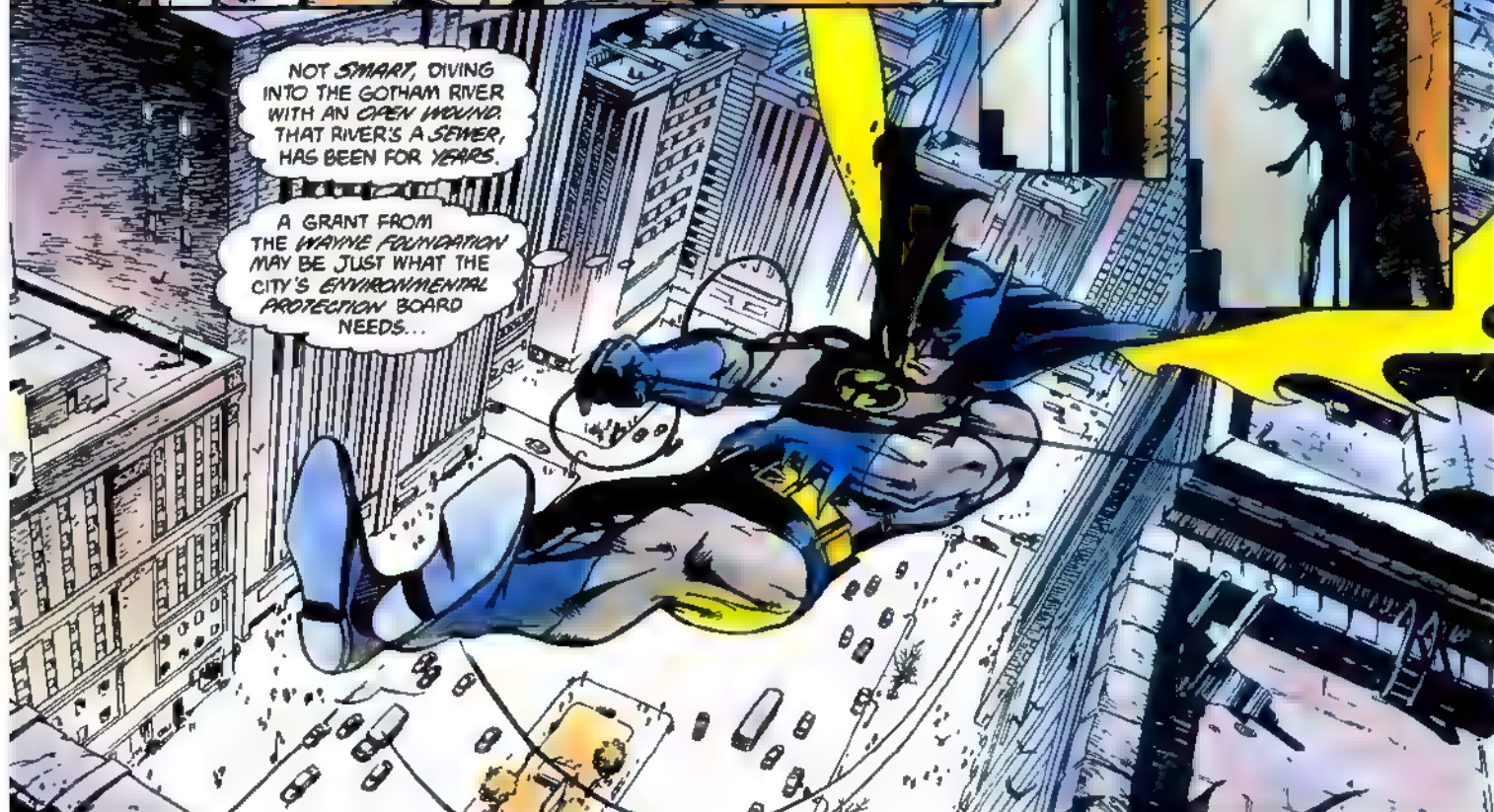
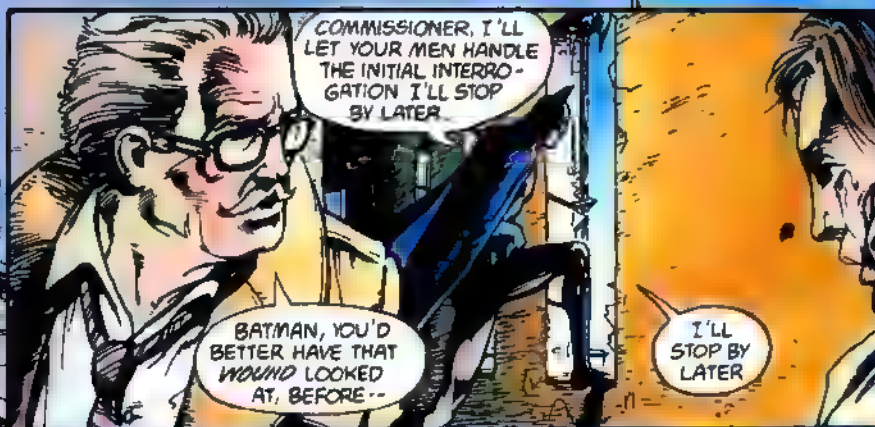
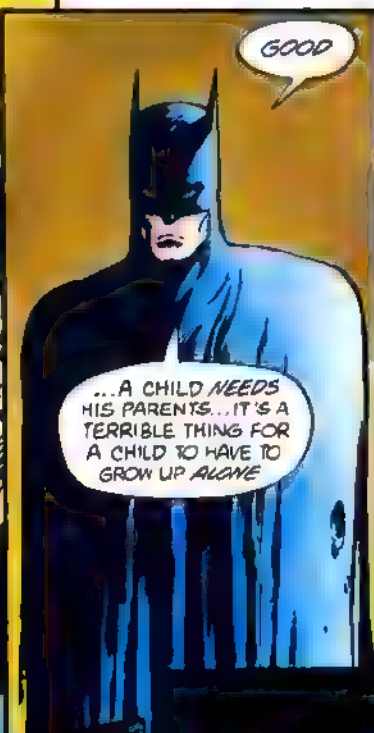
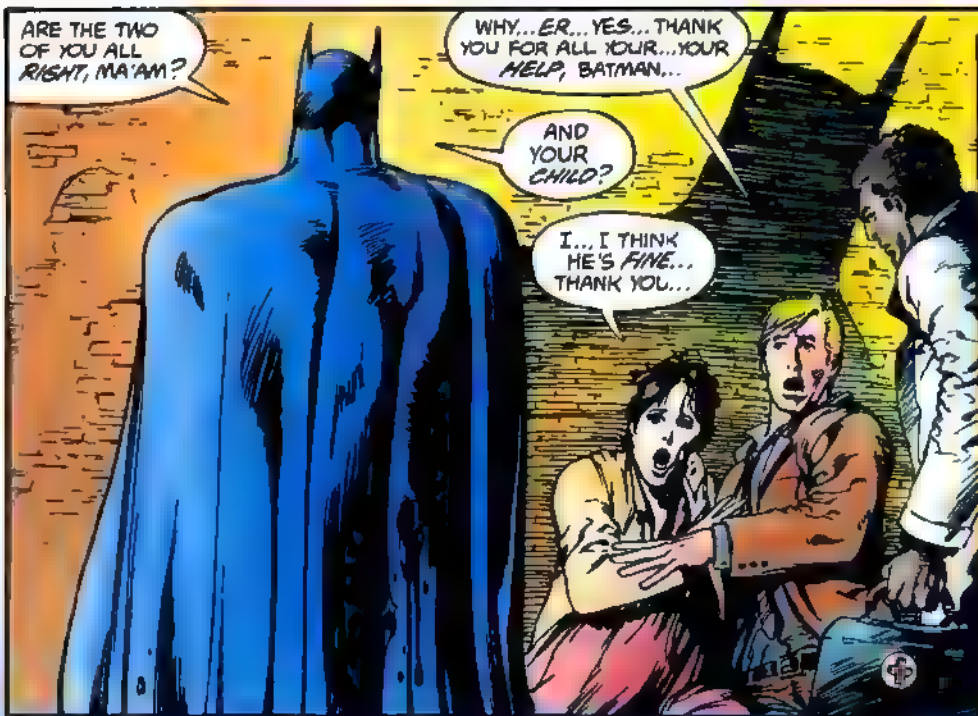
HOW <sup>3</sup>GASP: HOW ARE THE HOSTAGES, COMMISSIONER?

FINE, BATMAN GOOD WORK

NOT GOOD ENOUGH, OR I WOULD HAVE FOUND THEIR FLIGHT PLANS. LET'S GET BACK. I WANT A CRACK AT THOSE PRISONERS "











... AND EVERY  
TIME HIS EYES  
CLOSE, HE  
WATCHES HIS  
PARENTS DIE.

DAD?  
MOM?

THIS'LL SHUT  
YOU UP!

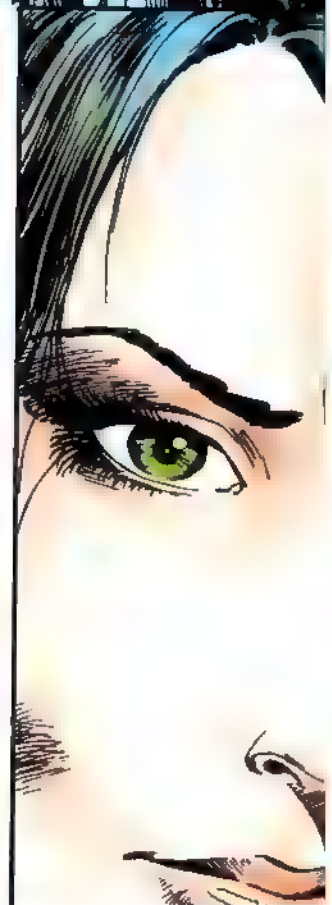
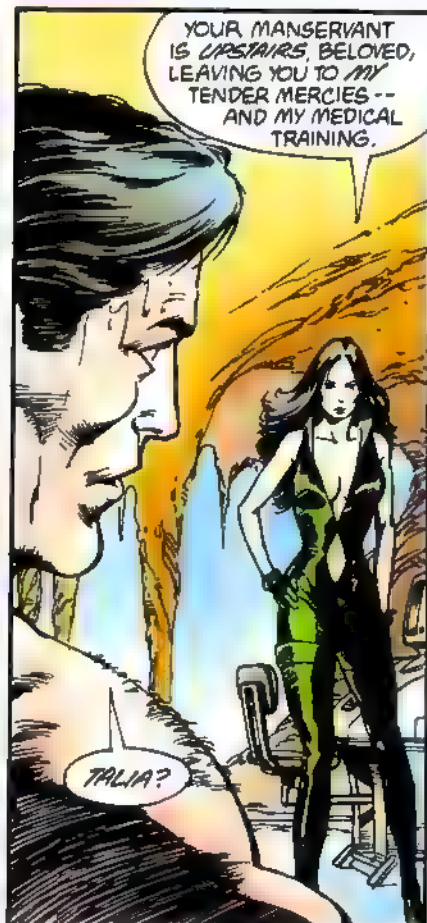
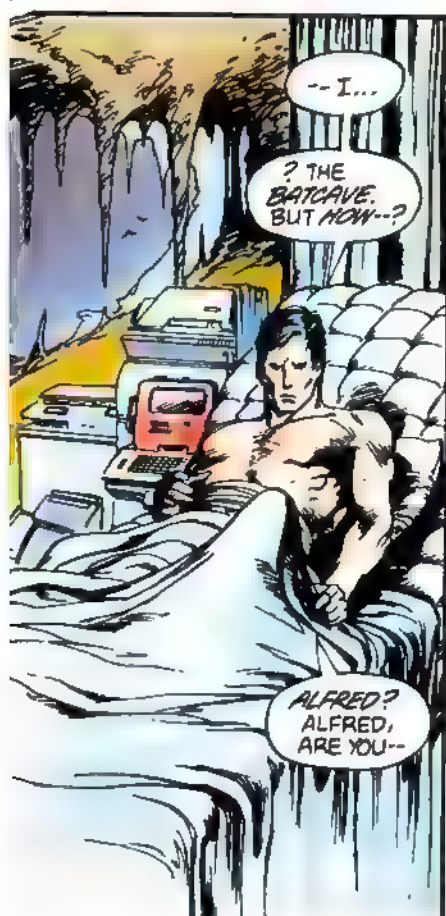
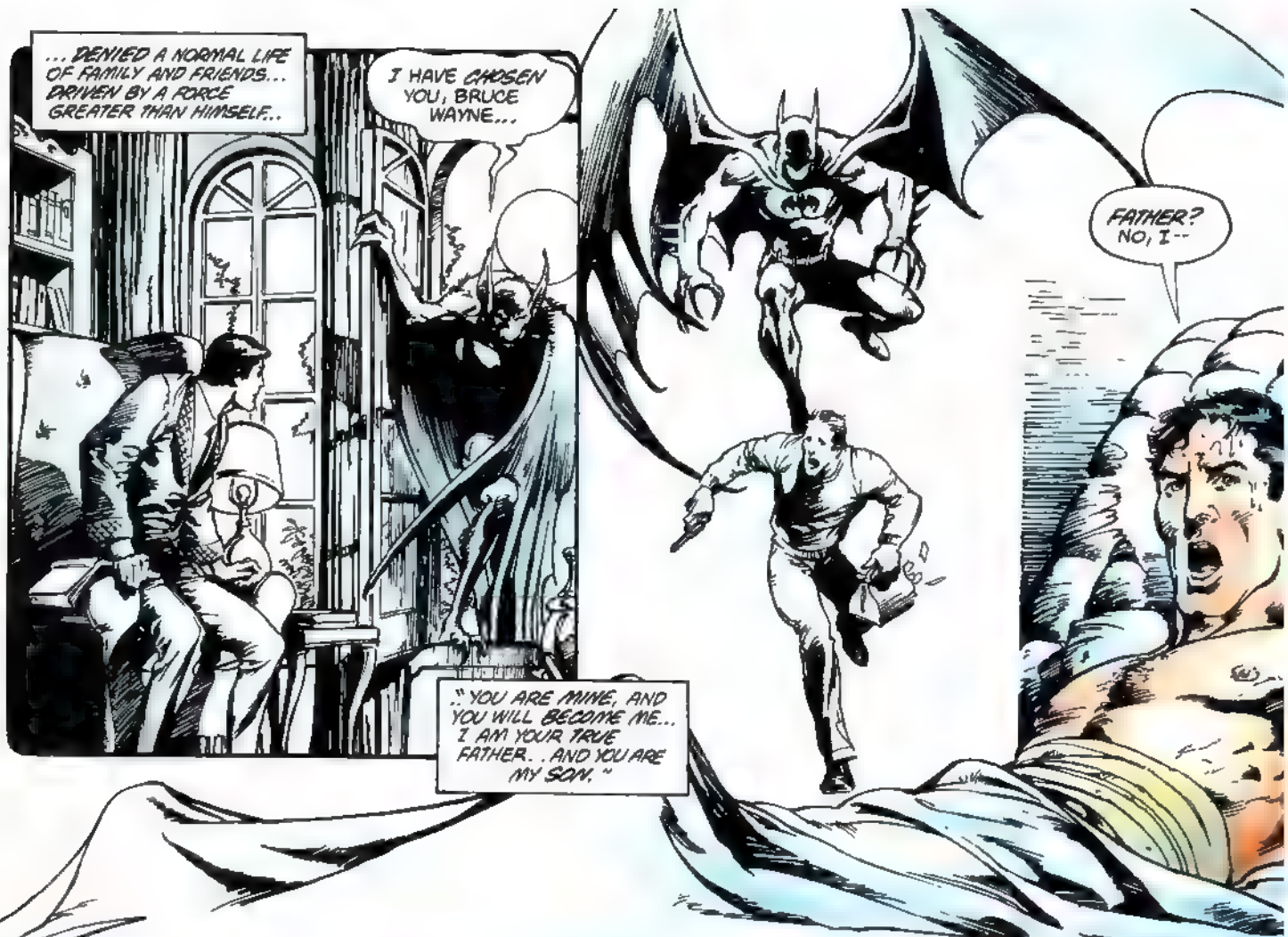
BANG

I SWEAR :SNIFF:  
I'LL SPEND MY LIFE  
MAKING SURE NO  
ONE HAS TO SUFFER  
LIKE YOU DID...

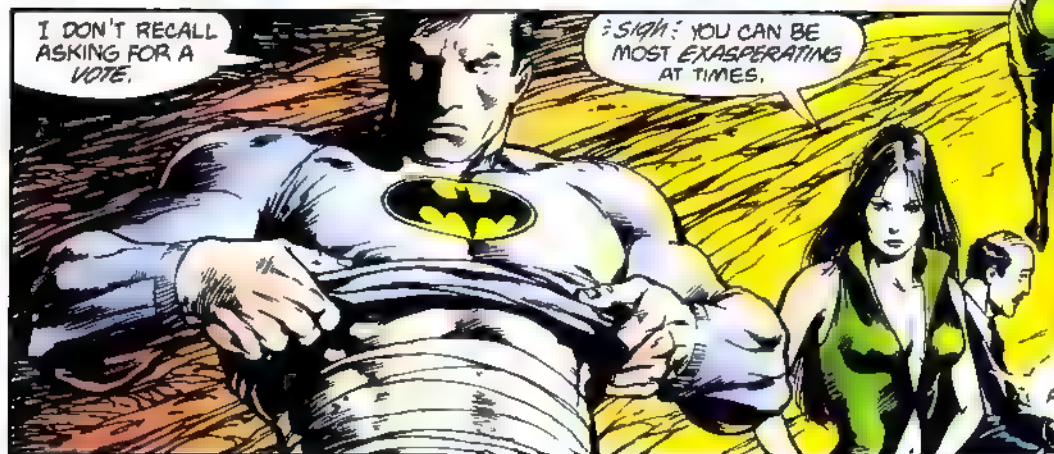
... OR LIKE ME  
SUFFERED...  
GROWING UP  
ALONE...









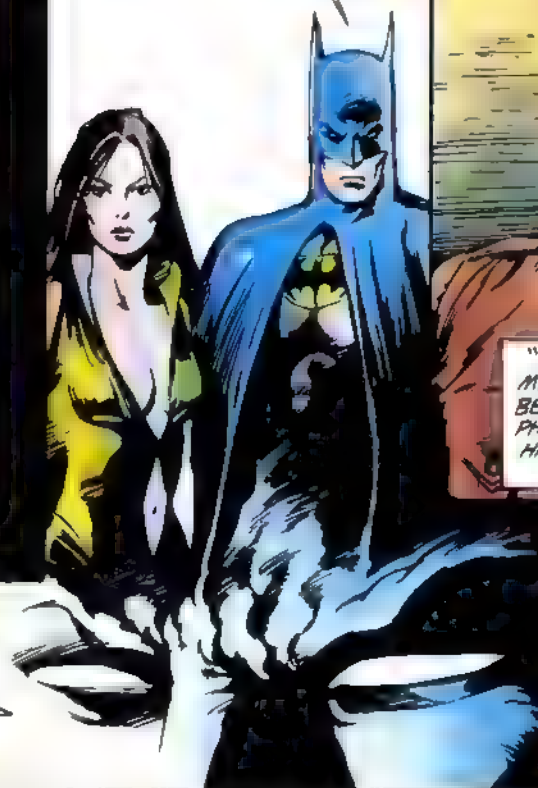




"VERY WELL. ALL THE TERRORISTS CAPTURED BORE THE SAME MARK-- THE LETTER 'Q' CARVED INTO THEIR FLESH. WE THINK THEY WORK FOR A MAN NAMED QAYIN--"



A TERRORIST AND MURDERER... LIKE HIS NAMESAKE, CAIN.



"YES. QAYIN IS A REAL MYSTERY MAN, HE'S NEVER BEEN CAPTURED, NOT EVEN PHOTOGRAPHED. INTERPOL HAS LINKED QAYIN WITH THIS MAN--"

GENERAL YOSSID OF GOLATIA HE RECENTLY SIGNED A PACT WITH AMERICA AFTER YEARS OF COURTING BOTH THE USA AND THE USSR. DO YOU THINK HE AND QAYIN ARE ALLIES?



IF THEY ARE, THEY'RE BIRDS OF A FEATHER. YOSSID TOOK OVER GOLATIA TEN YEARS AGO, IN A BLOODY COUP, AND HAS REMAINED RULER EVER SINCE.

QAYIN MAY HAVE A BASE SOMEWHERE IN GOLATIA, WITH YOSSID'S BLESSINGS.



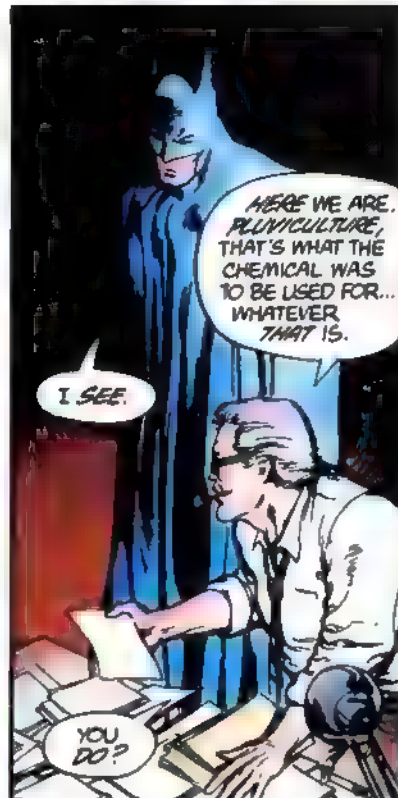
SOMEONE'S GOING TO HAVE TO FIND HIM AND STOP HIM.

I KNOW.

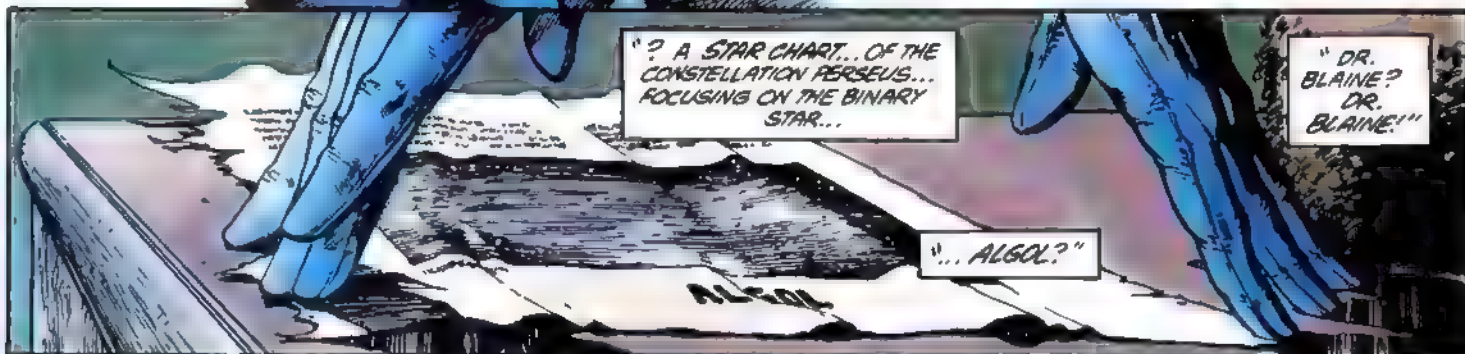
WHAT'S THE WORD ON THOSE BARRELS QAYIN'S MEN WERE TRYING TO HEIST, COMMISSIONER? WHAT WAS IN THEM?















"WHO ARE YOU?"

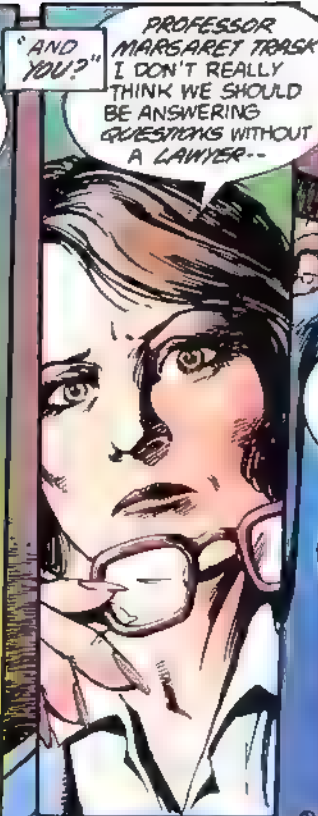
PEARSON, JOHN  
PEARSON I'M HARRIS  
PARTNER HE HANDLES  
THE LAB SCIENCE, AND  
I HANDLE THE COMPUTER  
PROGRAMMING.



"YOU'RE BLAINE'S  
SON."

HARRIS BLAINE, JR I-I  
WAS DAD'S ASSISTANT,  
HE WAS TRAINING ME TO  
TAKE HIS PLACE SOME...  
SOMEDAY

OH,  
DAD.



"AND  
YOU?"

PROFESSOR  
MARGARET TRASK  
I DON'T REALLY  
THINK WE SHOULD  
BE ANSWERING  
QUESTIONS WITHOUT  
A LAWYER--

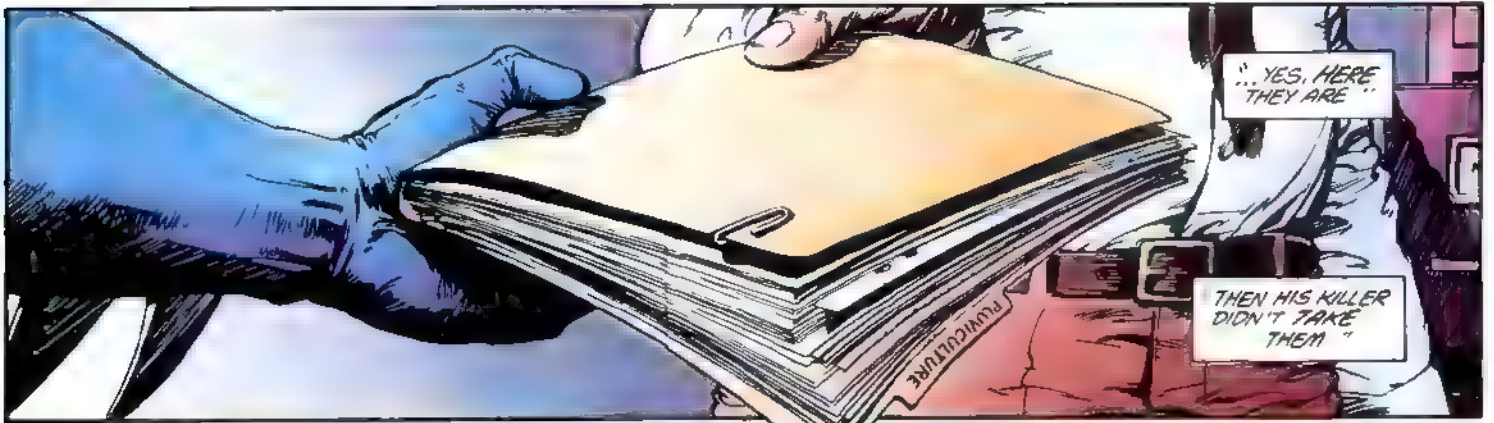


PROBABLY NOT  
WHAT WERE YOU  
WORKING ON,  
PROFESSOR?

I WAS WORKING WITH  
DR BLAINE -- SENIOR--  
ON HIS PLUVICULTURE  
EXPERIMENTS.

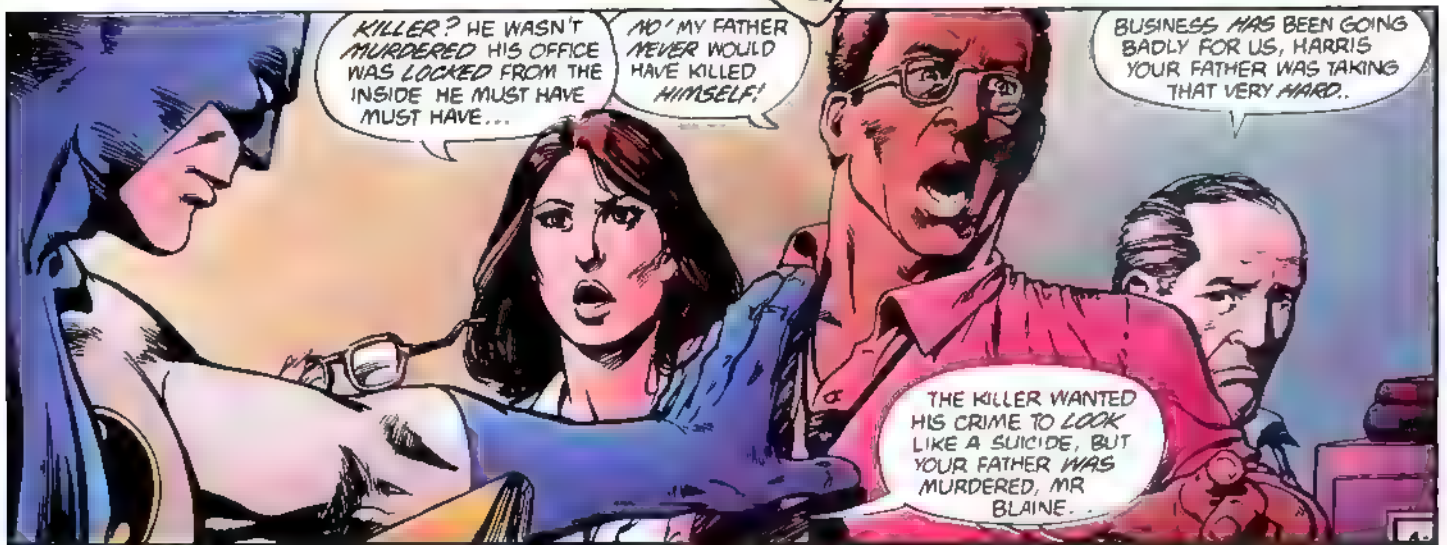
HAS ANYTHING  
IN HERE BEEN  
DISTURBED? ARE  
HIS NOTES STILL  
HERE?

LET ME  
CHECK



"...YES, HERE  
THEY ARE"

THEN HIS KILLER  
DIDN'T TAKE  
THEM



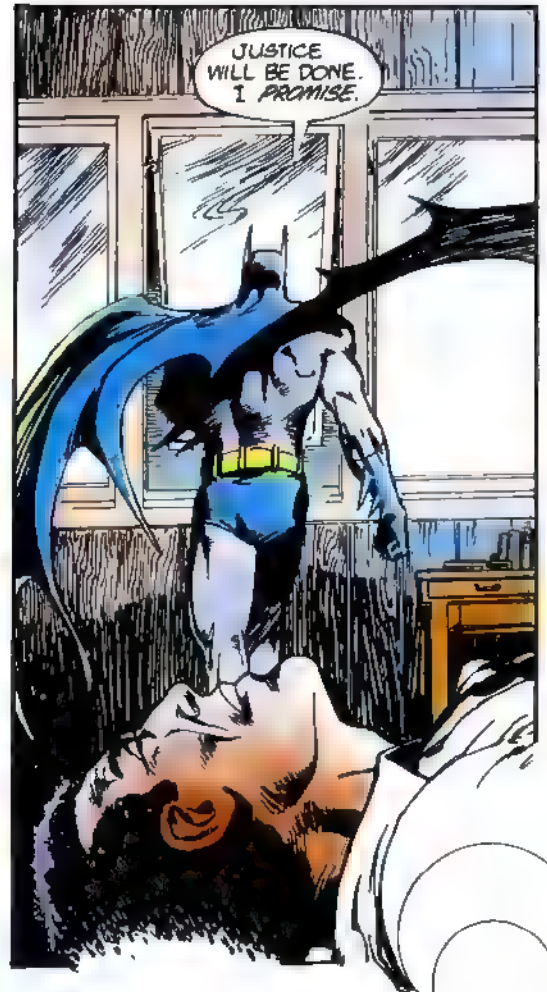
KILLER? HE WASN'T  
MURDERED HIS OFFICE  
WAS LOCKED FROM THE  
INSIDE HE MUST HAVE  
MUST HAVE...

NO! MY FATHER  
NEVER WOULD  
HAVE KILLED  
HIMSELF!

BUSINESS HAS BEEN GOING  
BADLY FOR US, HARRIS  
YOUR FATHER WAS TAKING  
THAT VERY HARD..

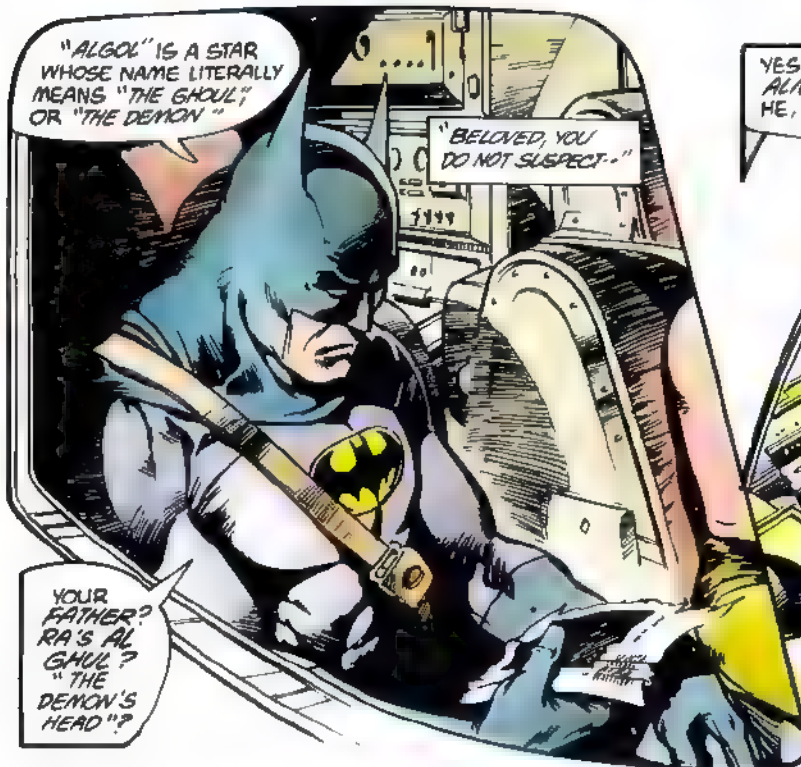
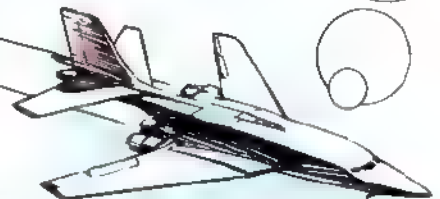
THE KILLER WANTED  
HIS CRIME TO LOOK  
LIKE A SUICIDE, BUT  
YOUR FATHER WAS  
MURDERED, MR  
BLAINE.



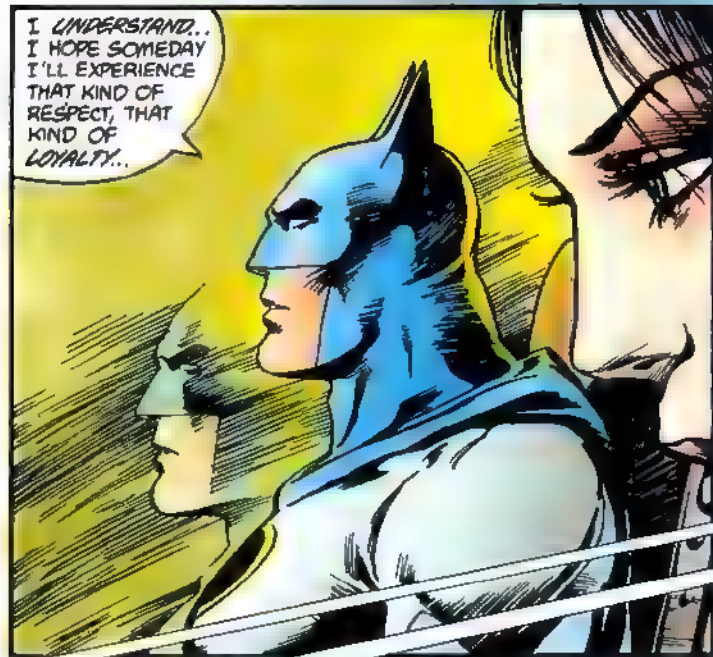


"WHAT DO YOU STUDY SO INTENTLY, BELOVED? IT IS A CLUE OF SOME SORT?"

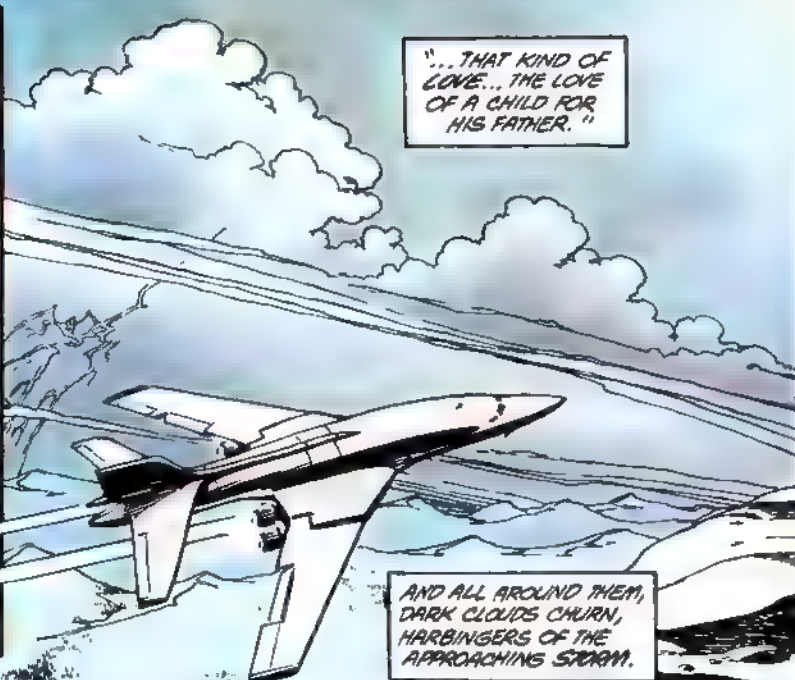
"IT IS, TALIA..."





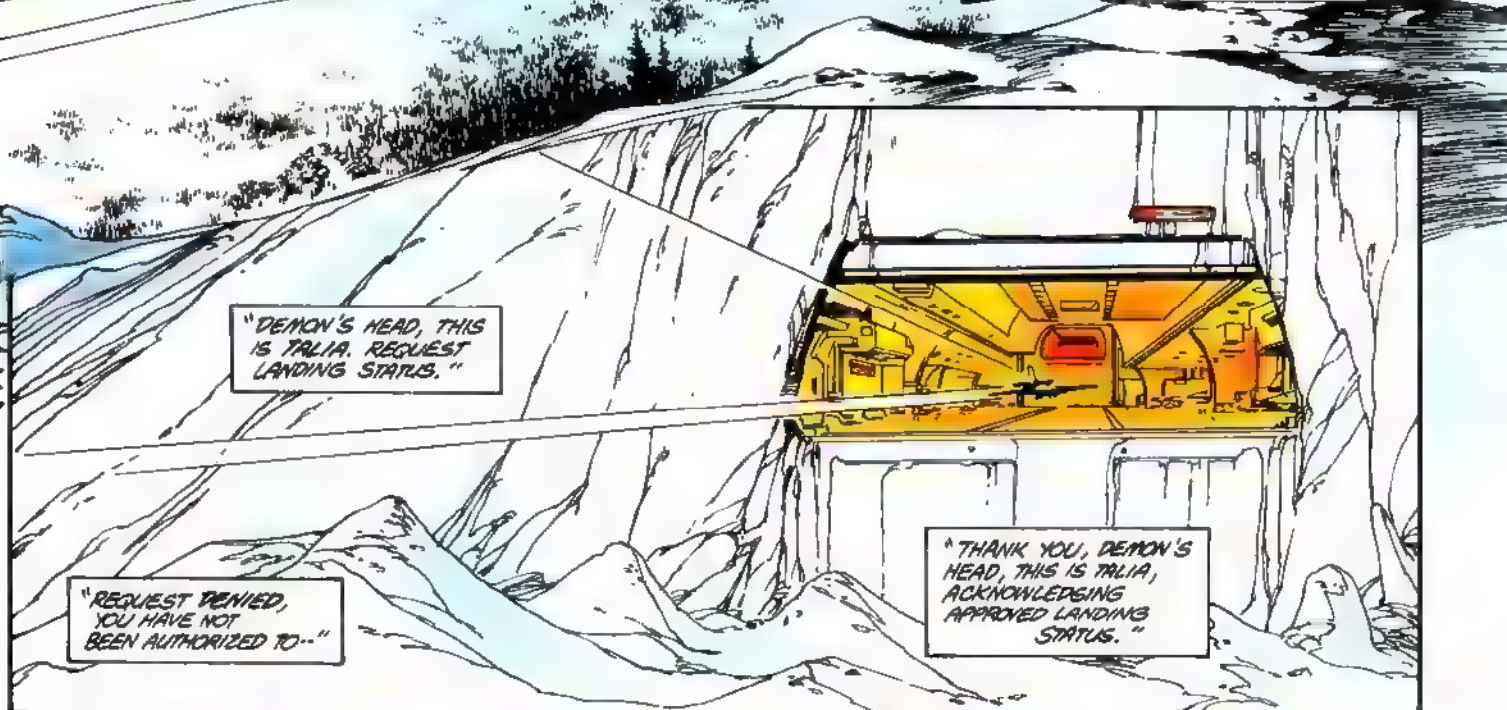


I UNDERSTAND...  
I HOPE SOMEDAY  
I'LL EXPERIENCE  
THAT KIND OF  
RESPECT, THAT  
KIND OF  
LOYALTY...



"...THAT KIND OF  
LOVE... THE LOVE  
OF A CHILD FOR  
HIS FATHER."

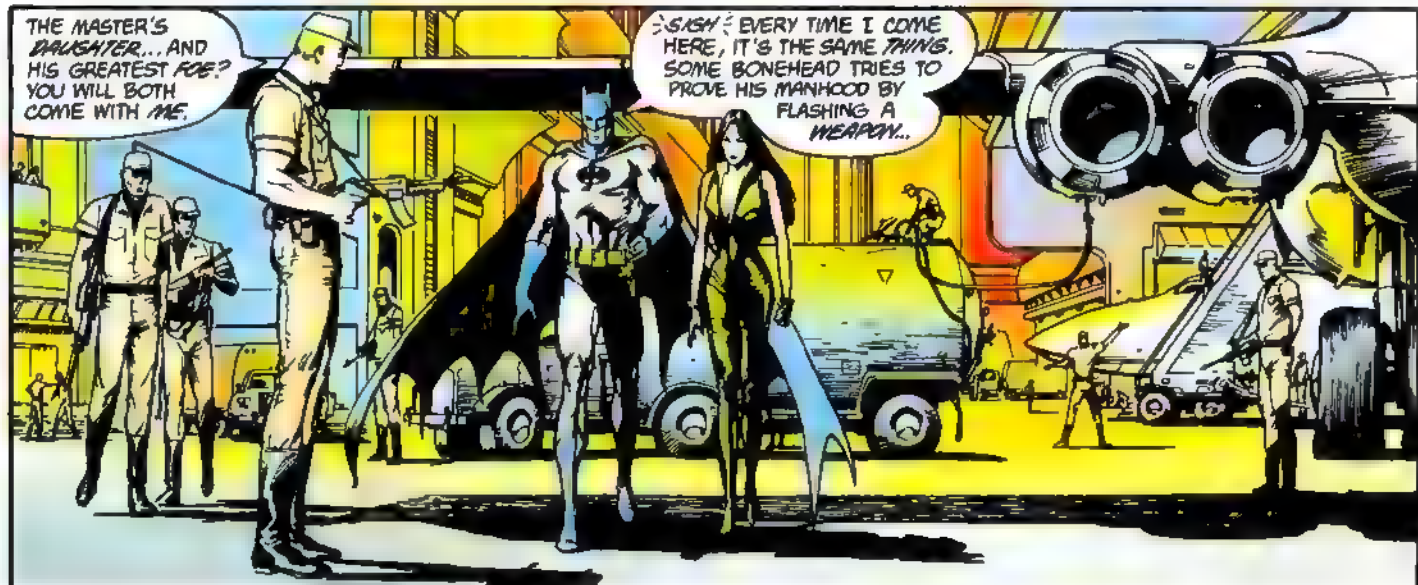
AND ALL AROUND THEM,  
DARK CLOUDS CHURN,  
HARBINGERS OF THE  
APPROACHING STORM.



"DEMON'S HEAD, THIS  
IS TALIA. REQUEST  
LANDING STATUS."

"THANK YOU, DEMON'S  
HEAD, THIS IS TALIA,  
ACKNOWLEDGING  
APPROVED LANDING  
STATUS."

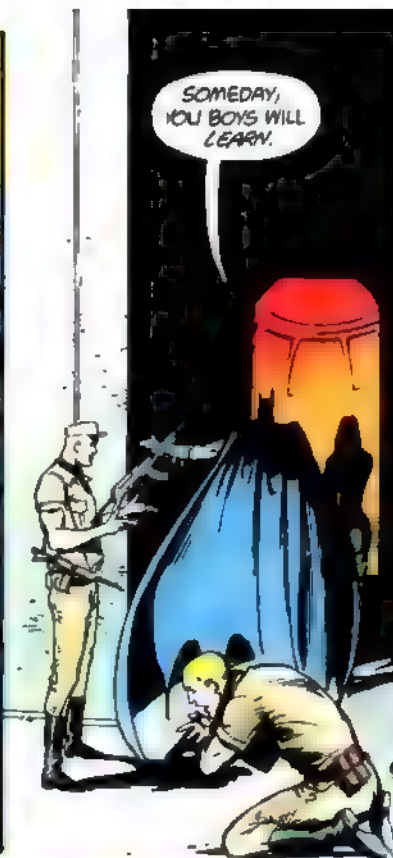
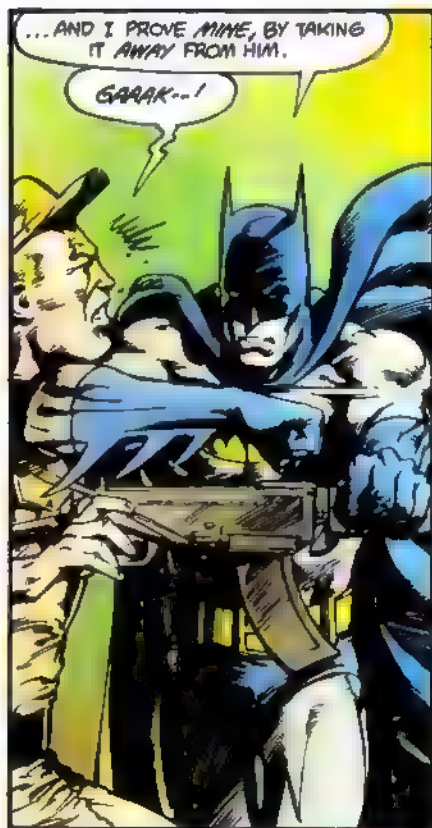
"REQUEST DENIED,  
YOU HAVE NOT  
BEEN AUTHORIZED TO..."



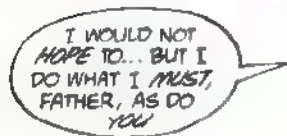
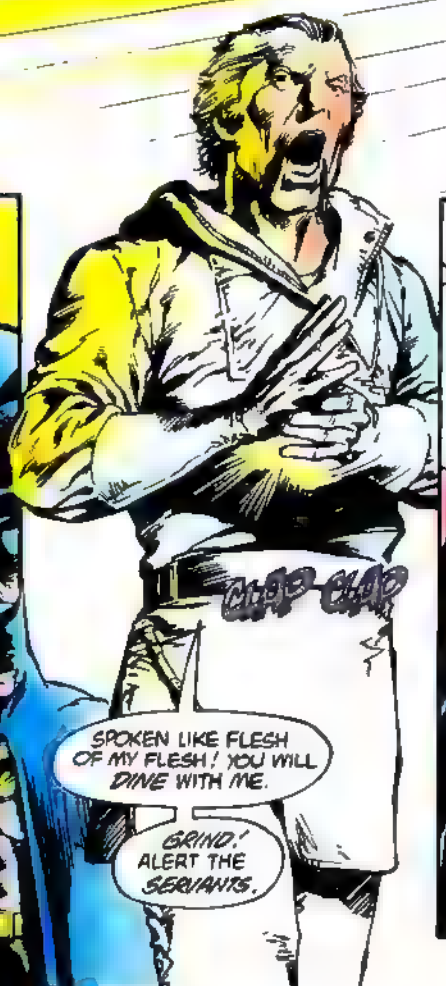
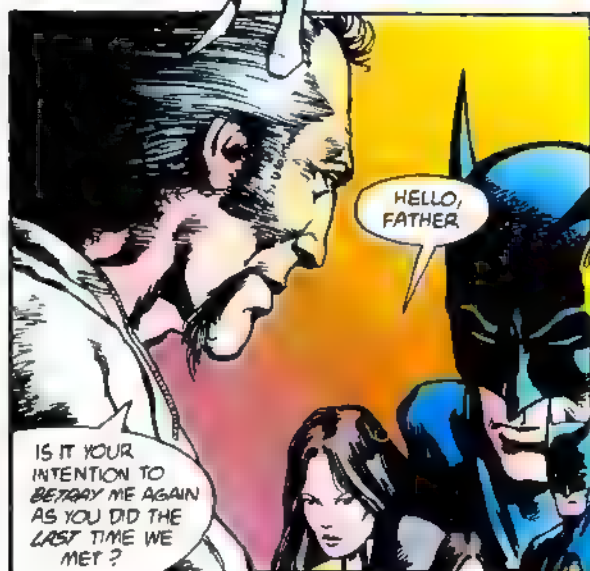
THE MASTER'S  
DAUGHTER... AND  
HIS GREATEST Foe?  
YOU WILL BOTH  
COME WITH ME.

"SASH: EVERY TIME I COME  
HERE, IT'S THE SAME THING.  
SOME BONEHEAD TRIES TO  
PROVE HIS MANHOOD BY  
FLASHING A  
WEAPON..."

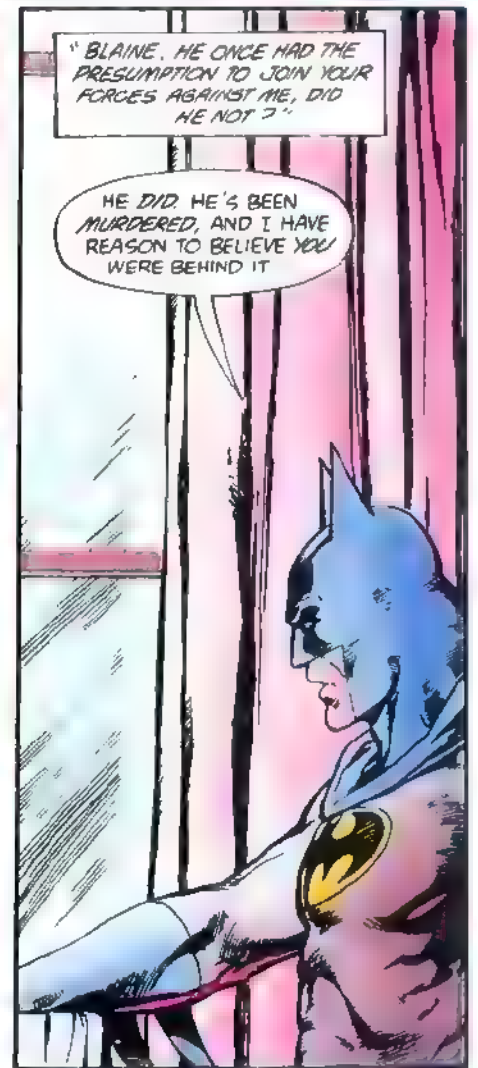
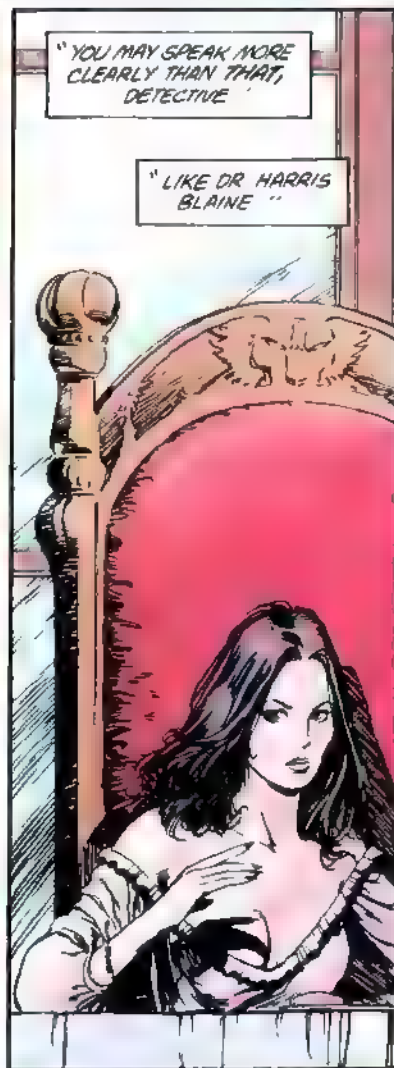
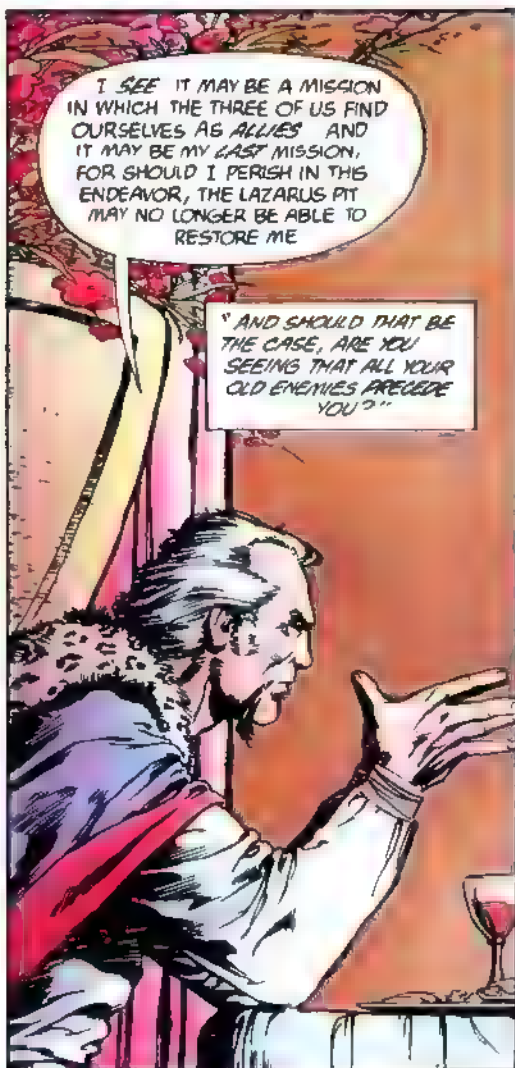




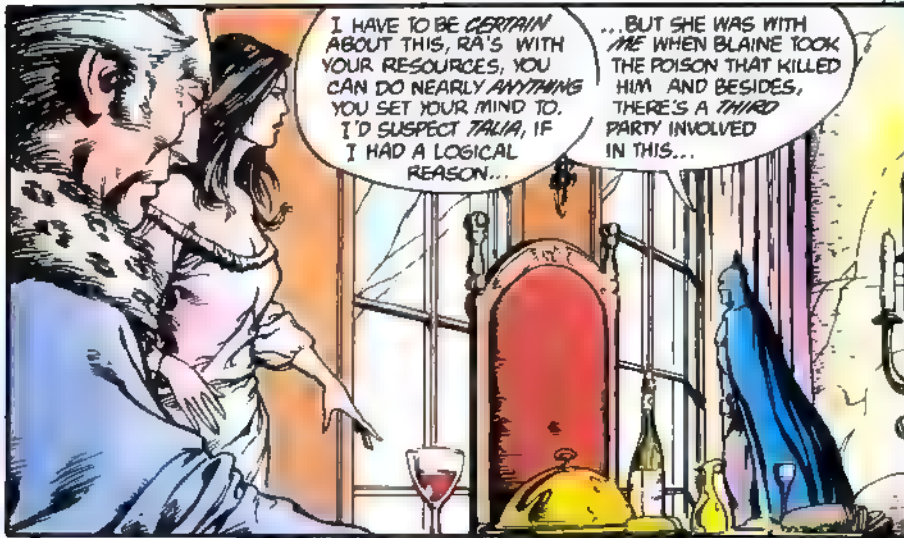












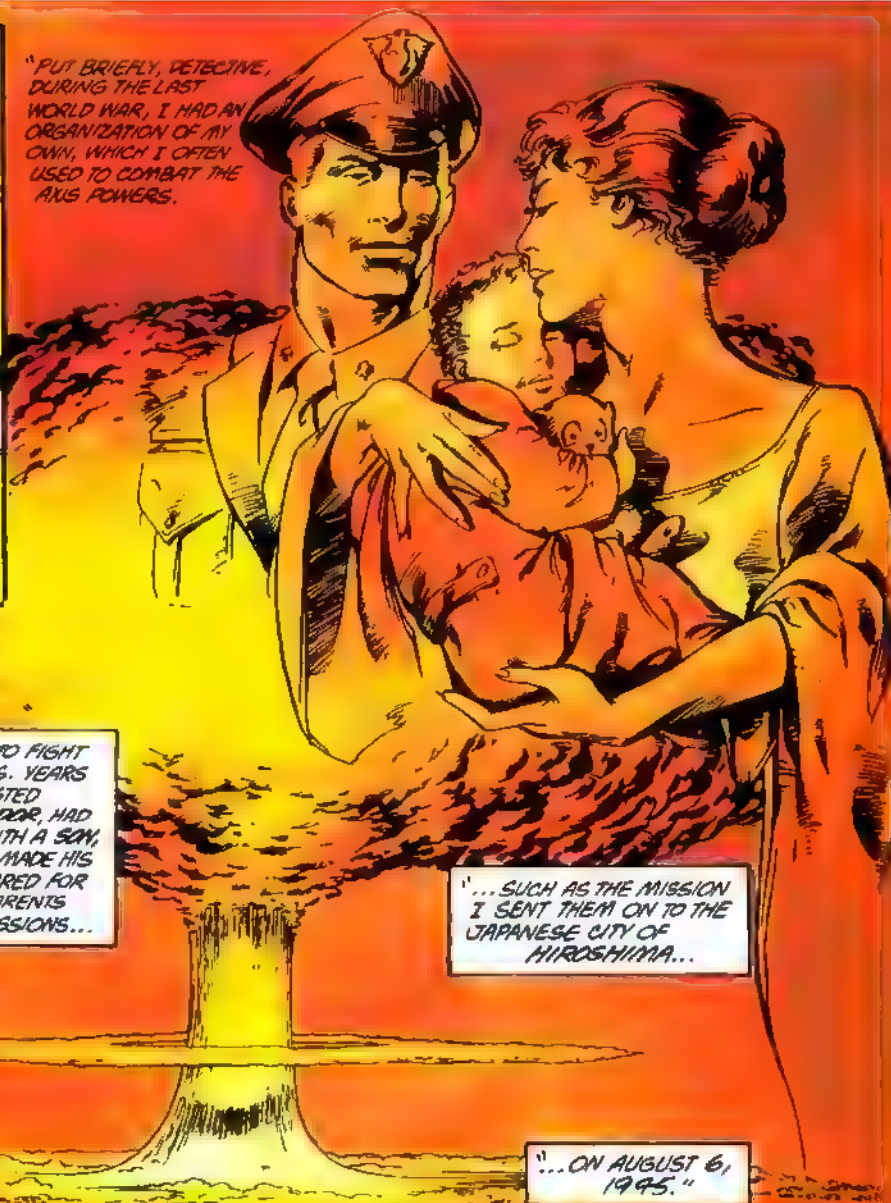




"...BUT SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL..."

SHE REMAINS SO, IN OUR HEARTS, DAUGHTER. NEVER FORGET THAT.

"PUT BRIEFLY, DETECTIVE, DURING THE LAST WORLD WAR, I HAD AN ORGANIZATION OF MY OWN, WHICH I OFTEN USED TO COMBAT THE AXIS POWERS."



"WE HAD MUCH TO FIGHT FOR IN THOSE DAYS. YEARS EARLIER, MY TRUSTED LIEUTENANT, LANDOR, HAD BEEN BLESSED WITH A SON, AND I HAD BEEN MADE HIS GODFATHER. I CARED FOR HIM WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE OFF ON MISSIONS..."

"...SUCH AS THE MISSION I SENT THEM ON TO THE JAPANESE CITY OF HIROSHIMA..."

"...ON AUGUST 6, 1945."



A DATE OF SOME HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, I THINK YOU WILL RECALL, DETECTIVE.



"YOUNG QUINLAN HAD COME WITH ME TO MEET HIS PARENTS, AND I HAD TO PHYSICALLY RESTRAIN HIM FROM JOINING THEM."



"I THOUGHT THE  
BOY'S HEART WOULD  
BREAK WORSE, IT  
HARDENED..."

"... FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, HE BECAME  
MOODY, FATALISTIC, OBSESSED WITH THE  
SUBJECT OF DEATH. HE DEMANDED WE  
CALL HIM QAYIN, AFTER A VARIATION ON  
THE NAME OF THE FIRST MURDERER

"MY BELOVED WIFE, MELISANDE,  
AND I COULD DO NOTHING TO  
RELIEVE HIS MELANCHOLY  
MELISANDE, WHO WAS, AT THAT  
TIME, CARRYING TALIA, BEGGED  
ME TO EXPEL HIM FROM OUR  
HOUSEHOLD

"I FELT THAT I  
COULD NOT, WOULD  
THAT I HAD.

"ONE NIGHT, WHEN TALIA  
WAS ONLY A CHILD,  
MELISANDE CAUGHT  
QAYIN PROWLING ABOUT  
THE SECRET ROOM WHERE  
I KEPT AN EARLIER  
VERSION OF THE PIT

"AND TALIA SAW IT?"

"HORRIFIED -- FOR  
THAT ROOM WAS  
FORBIDDEN TO ALL,  
SAVE ME -- QAYIN  
FLED. AND IN DOING  
SO, PUSHED MY  
BELOVED INTO THE PIT

"HER DEATH WAS  
INSTANTANEOUS..."

YES...



... BUT QAYIN ESCAPED THAT NIGHT, AND VIRTUALLY DISAPPEARED. FOR YEARS WE COULD FIND NO TRACE OF HIM. BUT NOW HE IS BACK...

... AND I WISH TO KILL HIM NOT ONLY TO AVENGE MY MOTHER...

... BUT TO ALSO PROVE TO MY FATHER THAT I STILL LOVE HIM.

THERE IS NO NEED TO PROVE WHAT I ALREADY KNOW, TALIA. I FORGIVE YOU YOUR PAST DISOBEDIENCES.

HOWEVER, WITH THE THREAT OF QAYIN LOOMING ON THE HORIZON, PERHAPS IT IS TIME I TOOK AN ALLY TO DEFEAT HIM-- YOU, DETECTIVE.

QAYIN MENACES YOUR WORLD AS WELL AS MINE, DETECTIVE. I FEEL IT WILL REQUIRE ALL OUR SKILLS TO OVERCOME HIM...

... AND THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT WE WILL NOT MEET DEATH IN THE BARGAIN.

DO YOU ACCEPT MY OFFER?

YES.

... AND WITH THIS POSITION COMES THE HAND OF MY DAUGHTER. TO ACCEPT THE FIRST IS TO ACCEPT THE SECOND, THERE IS NO MIDDLE GROUND.

DO YOU STILL ACCEPT MY OFFER, DETECTIVE?

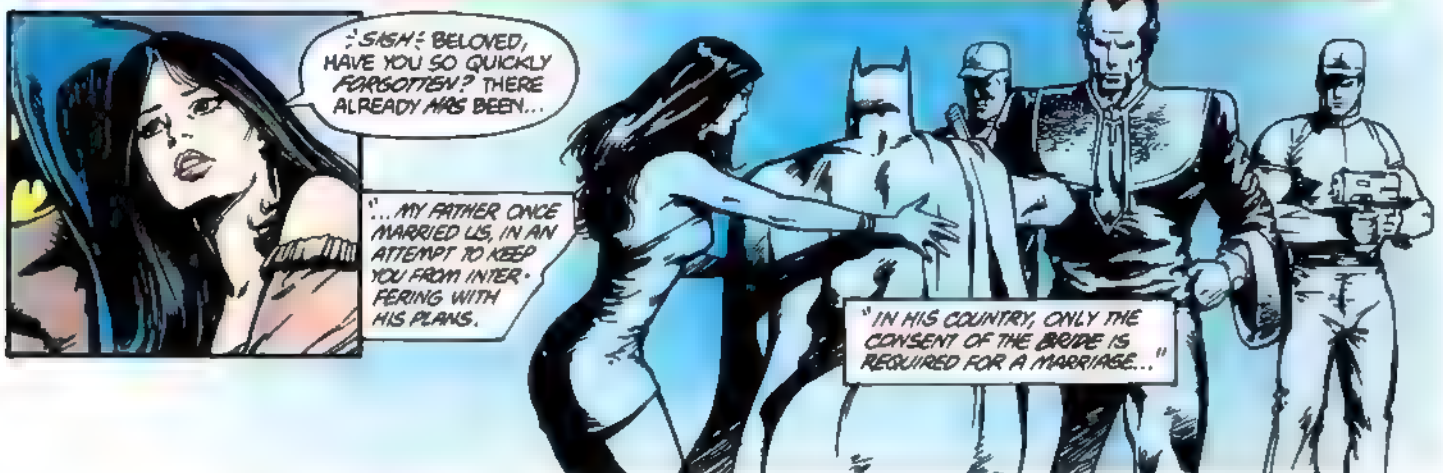
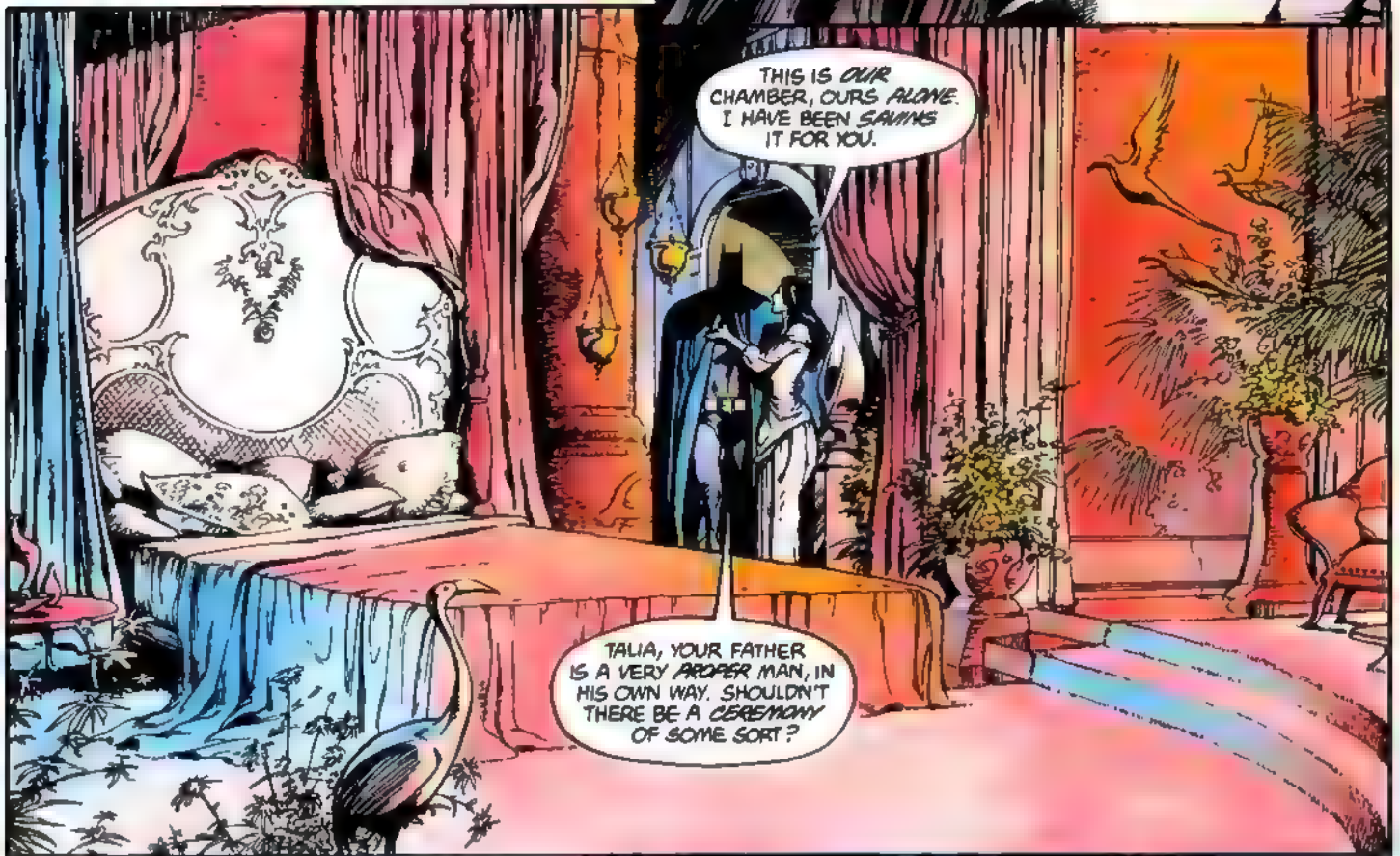
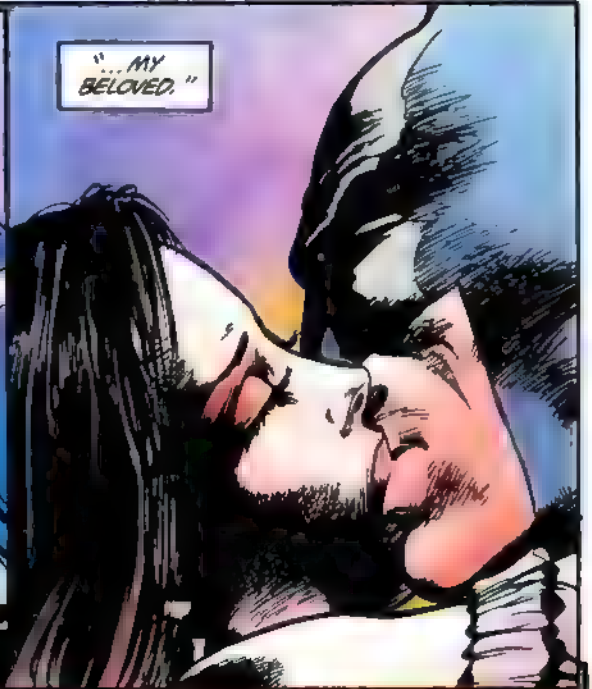
"I DO"

OH, YOU DO? I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE FLATTERED THAT YOU DEIGN TO REMEMBER ME AFTER ALL THIS TIME?

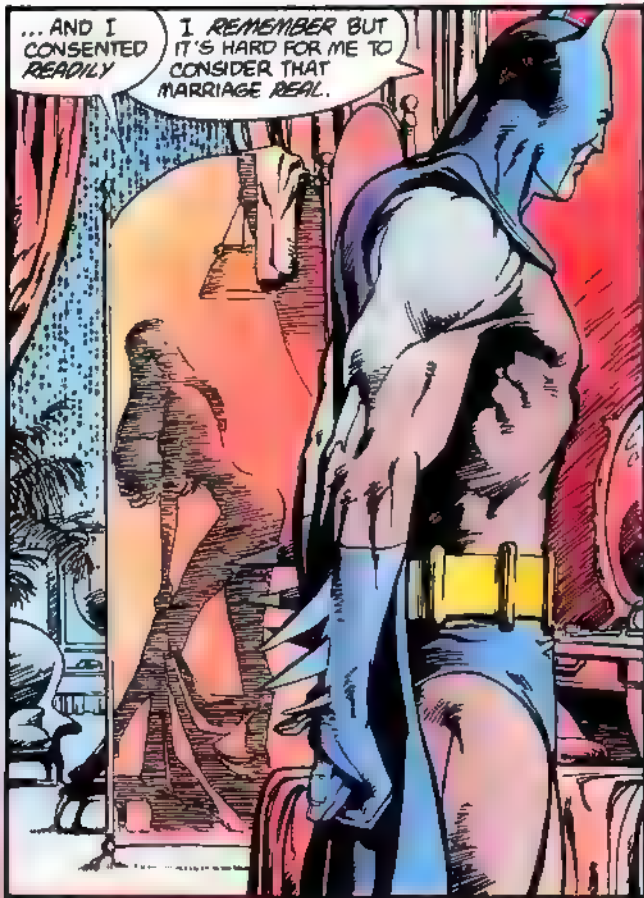
THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANY ROOM IN MY LIFE FOR A WOMAN... THAT'S WHAT I TOLD MYSELF, AFTER EVERY LIAISON I'VE EVER KNOWN SHATTERED...

... MAYBE THAT'S JUST WHAT I WANTED TO BELIEVE. I'VE TRIED TO FORGET YOU, GOD KNOWS...



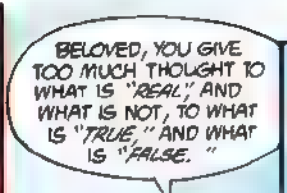




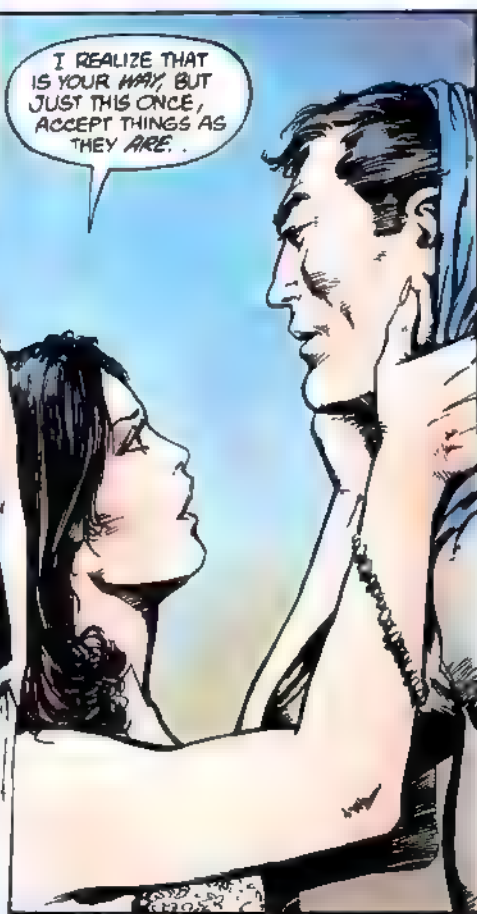


... AND I  
CONSENTED  
READILY

I REMEMBER BUT  
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO  
CONSIDER THAT  
MARRIAGE REAL.



BELoved, YOU GIVE  
TOO MUCH THOUGHT TO  
WHAT IS "REAL," AND  
WHAT IS NOT, TO WHAT  
IS "TRUE," AND WHAT  
IS "FALSE."

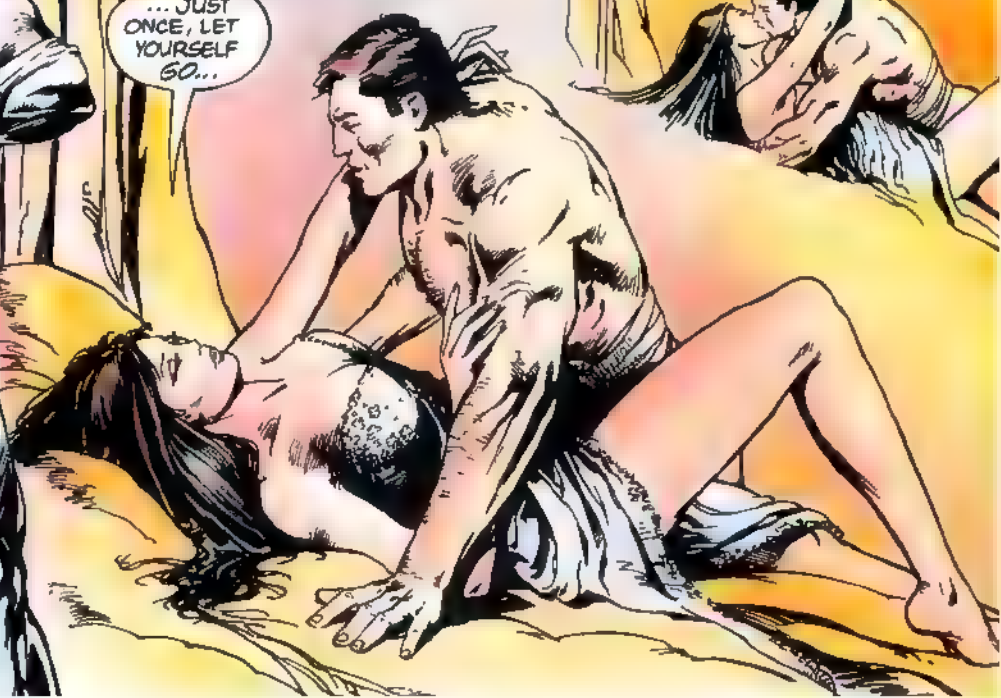


I REALIZE THAT  
IS YOUR WAY, BUT  
JUST THIS ONCE,  
ACCEPT THINGS AS  
THEY ARE.



... FOREGO  
YOUR CONTROL,  
YOUR DISCIPLINE..

... JUST  
ONCE, LET  
YOURSELF  
GO...



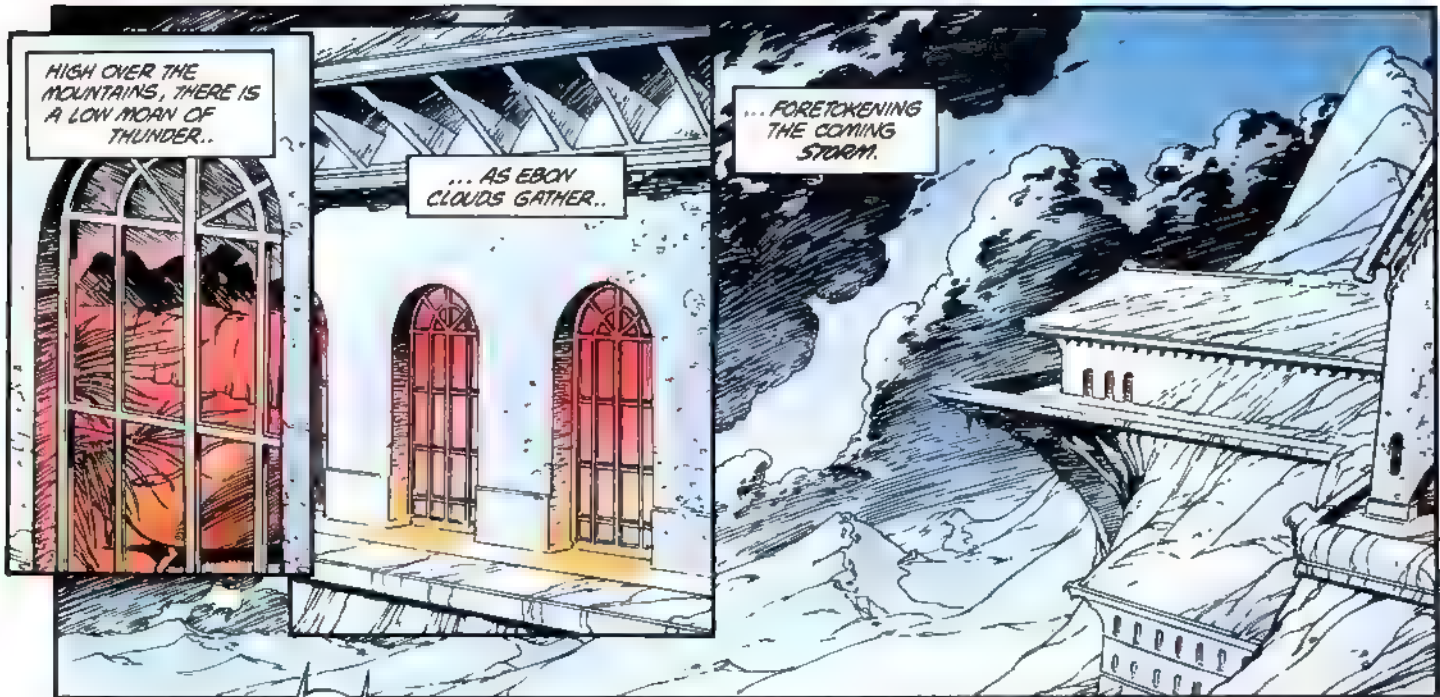
"... AND TAKE  
ME WITH YOU."



HIGH OVER THE MOUNTAINS, THERE IS A LOW MOAN OF THUNDER...

... AS EBON CLOUDS GATHER...

... FORETOKENING THE COMING STORM.



ATTENTION, ALL OF YOU FROM THIS DAY FORTH, I HEREBY DESIGNATE THE BATMAN AS MY SECOND-IN-COMMAND... MY SON OBEY HIM AS YOU WOULD ME.

AND THEY DO...

... AS IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS, THE WORLD'S MOST SKILLED COMBATANT TEACHES RA'S AL GHUL'S ASSASSIN'S TECHNIQUES IN NON-LETHAL WARFARE OF WHICH EVEN THEY ARE IGNORANT...

... WHILE STILL FINDING TIME TO BE A NEWLYWED, A ROLE IN WHICH HE IS QUITE UNSKILLED...

... BUT--TO HIS DELIGHT--QUICKLY LEARNS.





GOLATIA, A SMALL MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRY, HAS ONLY TWO FEATURES OF NOTE. A STRATEGIC POSITION, JUST SOUTH OF THE SOVIET UNION...

WE HAVE ARRIVED, GENERAL YOSSID.

... AND ITS NAME, TAKEN FROM THE BIBLICAL GIANT, IT RESEMBLES THE HISTORIC GOLIATH IN NEITHER STRENGTH NOR SIZE, BUT WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY...

... AND THIS MAN IS GOLATIA'S WILL.

VERY GOOD.



HERE YOU ARE, GENERAL YOSSID.

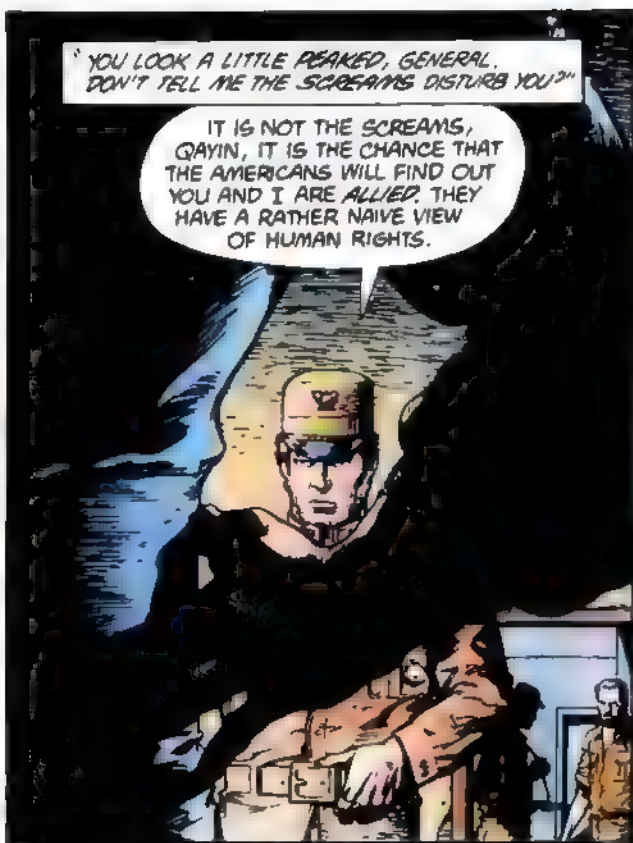
"WELCOME, GENERAL YOSSID."

GRAYIN? ARE YOU THERE? THIS DAMNED DARKNESS.

I RATHER LIKE IT, MYSELF...

... IT TENDS TO MAKE THE PRISONERS MORE TRACABLE.





"YOU LOOK A LITTLE PEAKED, GENERAL. DON'T TELL ME THE SCREAMS DISTURB YOU?"

IT IS NOT THE SCREAMS, QAYIN, IT IS THE CHANCE THAT THE AMERICANS WILL FIND OUT YOU AND I ARE ALLIED. THEY HAVE A RATHER NAIVE VIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS.



YES, THAT WOULD BE VERY BAD. DO YOU THINK THEY SUSPECT?



IF THEY DO, THEY VALUE GOLATIA'S STRATEGIC POSITION MORE. BUT I THINK WE HAVE NO REASON TO FEAR; THE LAUNCH IS SCHEDULED FOR TWO DAYS.

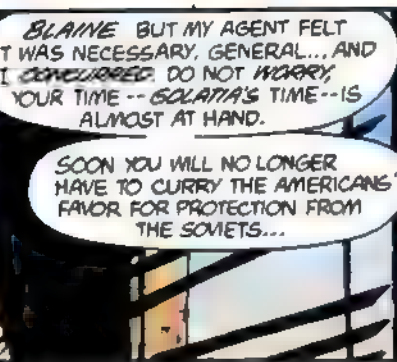
EXCELLENT. IT GOES WELL, THEN



AS LONG AS WE STICK TO THE PLAN, YES...



BUT YOU ARE OVERSTEPPING YOUR BOUNDS, QAYIN, I DID NOT AUTHORIZE THE MURDER OF THE AMERICAN... WHAT WAS HIS NAME...?



BLAINE BUT MY AGENT FELT IT WAS NECESSARY, GENERAL... AND I CONCURRED. DO NOT WORRY, YOUR TIME -- GOLATIA'S TIME -- IS ALMOST AT HAND.

SOON YOU WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO CURRY THE AMERICANS' FAVOR FOR PROTECTION FROM THE SOVIETS...



... SOON YOU WILL HAVE POWER OF YOUR OWN!

TO OUR MUTUAL STRENGTH, MY FRIEND

OUR MUTUAL SUPERIORITY, GENERAL.



YOU FOOL.



MR. QAYIN? MR. QAYIN, I HAVE NEWS FOR YOU.

WHAT IS IT, HALLAM? IF IT IS ABOUT THE SATELLITE--

NO, MR QAYIN, I HAVE THE BEST RESULTS.

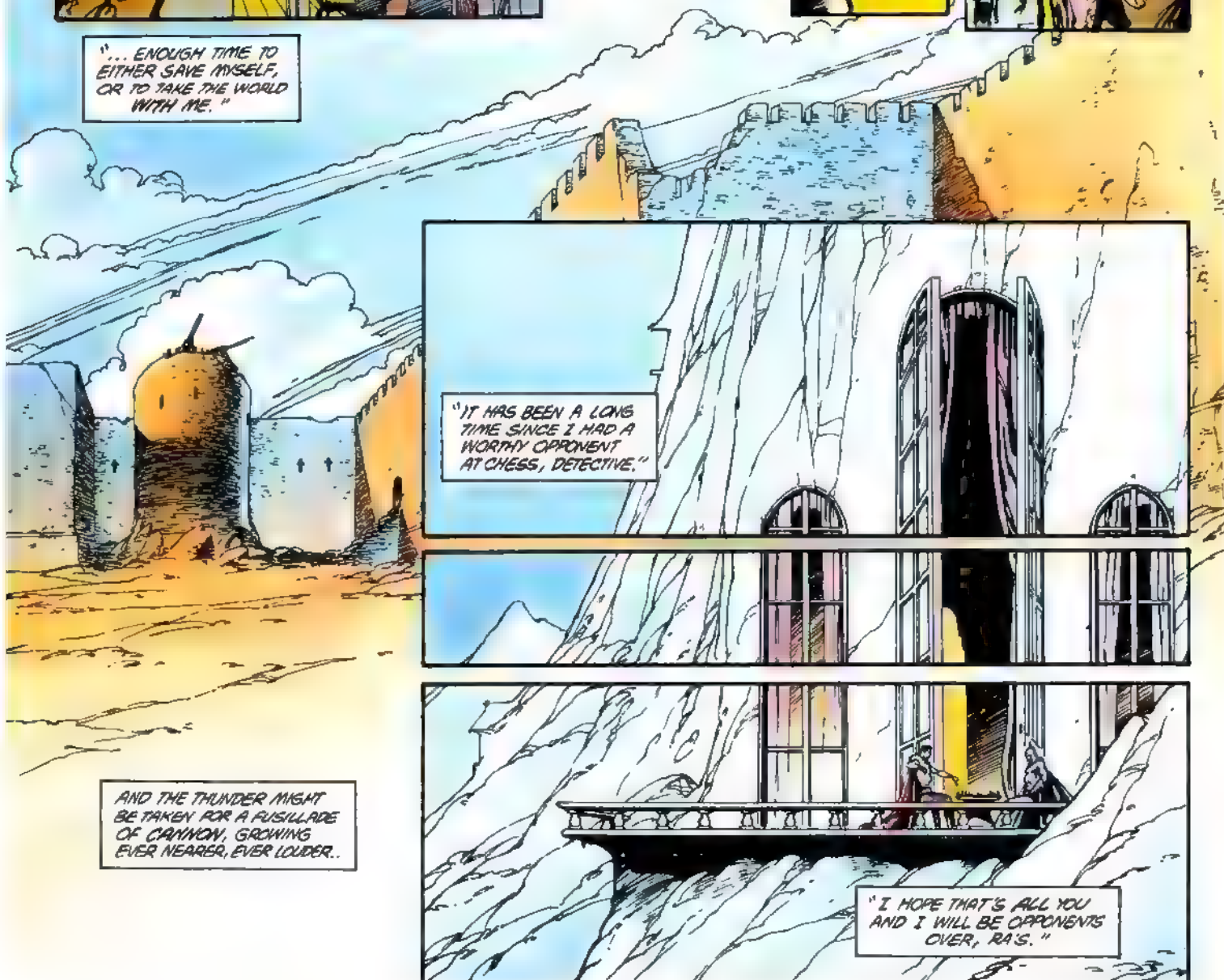




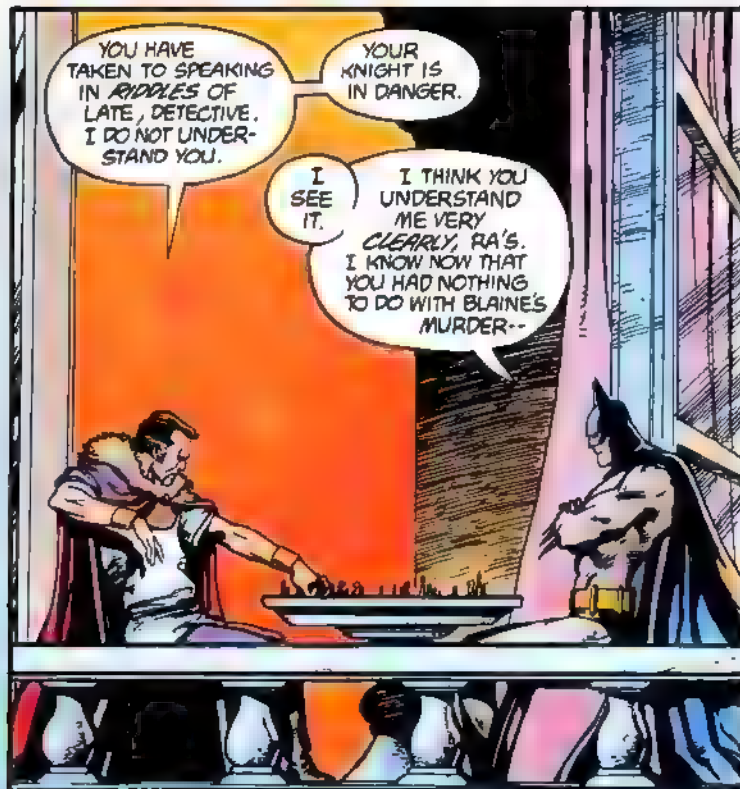
"I'M AFRAID THE PROGNOSIS IS NOT GOOD, YOU--"



"... ENOUGH TIME TO EITHER SAVE MYSELF, OR TO TAKE THE WORLD WITH ME."









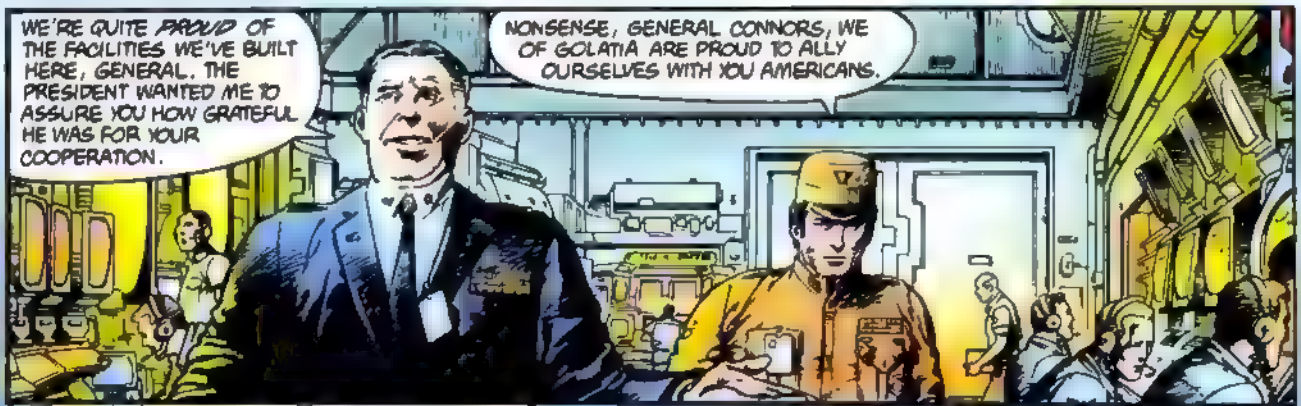
"GOLATIA BASE TO CANAVERAL;  
LIFT OFF IS ZERO MINUS THIRTY  
MINUTES, DO YOU COPY?"

"CANAVERAL TO GOLATIA;  
WE READ YOU LOUD AND  
CLEAR, OVER."



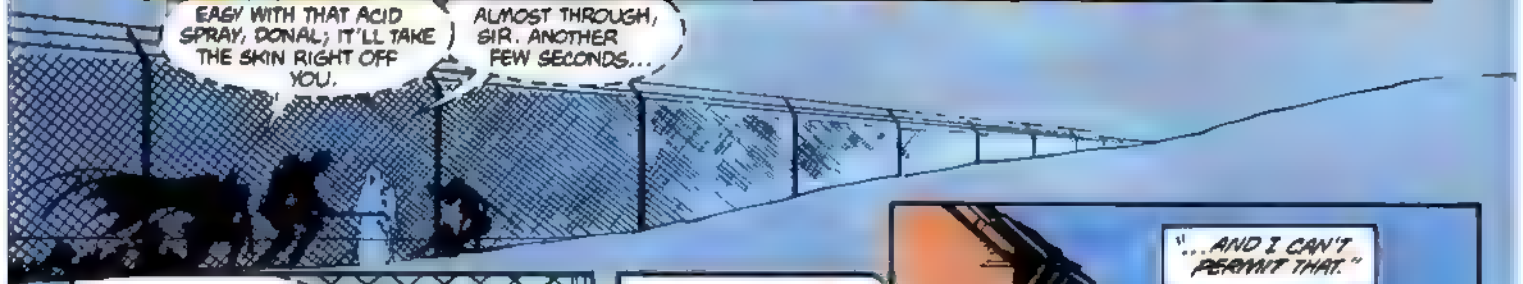
WE'RE QUITE PROUD OF  
THE FACILITIES WE'VE BUILT  
HERE, GENERAL. THE  
PRESIDENT WANTED ME TO  
ASSURE YOU HOW GRATEFUL  
HE WAS FOR YOUR  
COOPERATION.

NONSENSE, GENERAL CONNORS, WE  
OF GOLATIA ARE PROUD TO ALLY  
OURSELVES WITH YOU AMERICANS.



EASY WITH THAT ACID  
SPRAY, DONAL; IT'LL TAKE  
THE SKIN RIGHT OFF  
YOU.

ALMOST THROUGH,  
SIR. ANOTHER  
FEW SECONDS...



WE'RE INSIDE NOW.  
KEEP ALL CONVERSATION  
TO A MINIMUM, STAY  
LOW AND QUIET.



YOU SEEM  
SOMEWHAT  
DISTRAUGHT,  
BELOVED.

I'M NOT USED TO BREAKING  
INTO MY OWN COUNTRY'S  
FACILITIES, TALIA. BUT IF  
THIS WEATHER SATELLITE  
IS LAUNCHED, I'M CERTAIN  
QAYIN WILL USE IT AGAINST  
MANKIND...



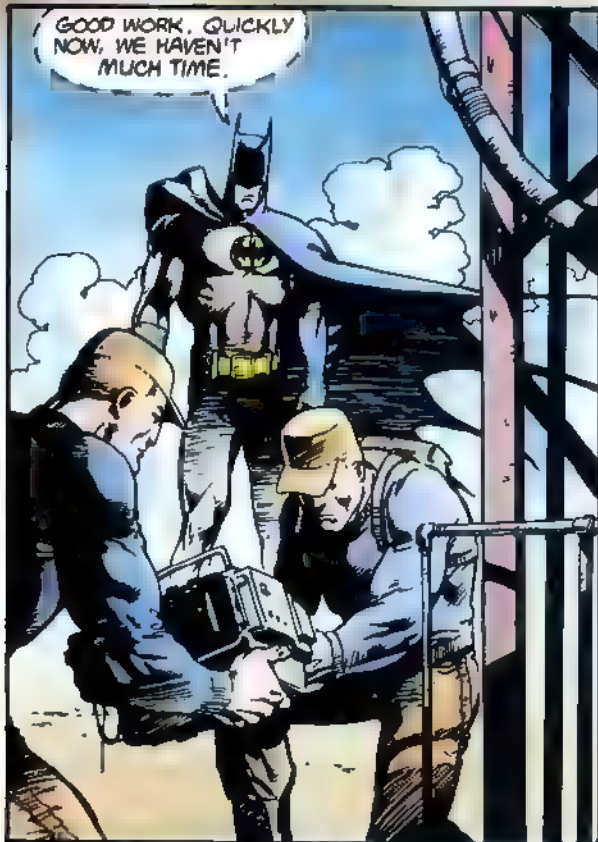
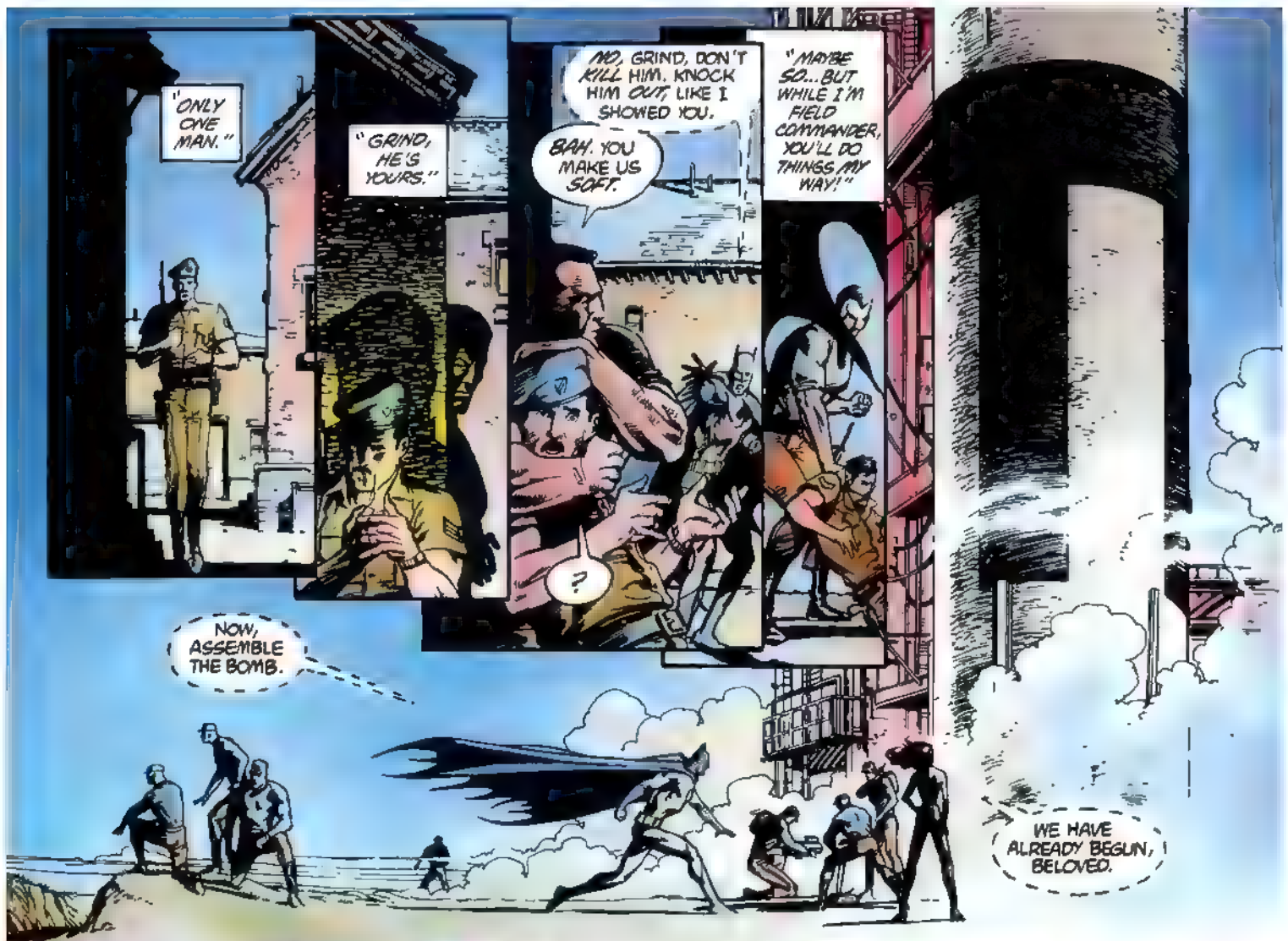
"...AND I CAN'T  
PERMIT THAT."

MSST.

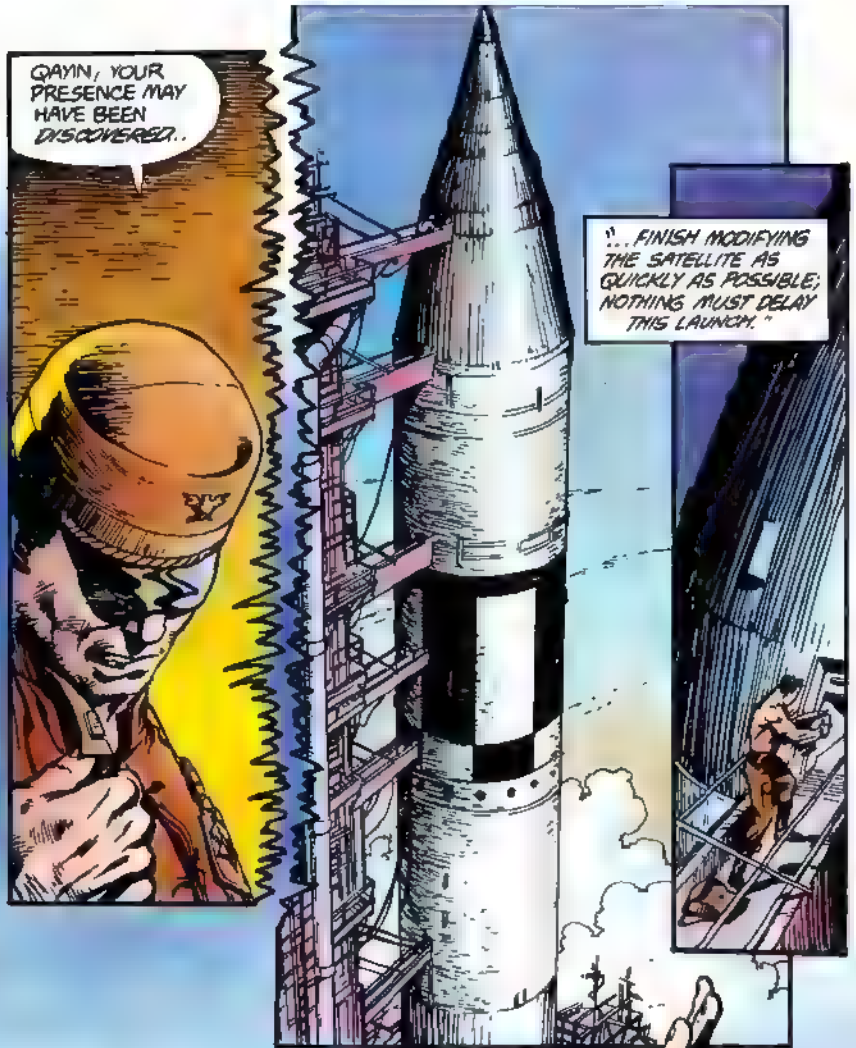


A GUARD  
APPROACHES. BE STILL.





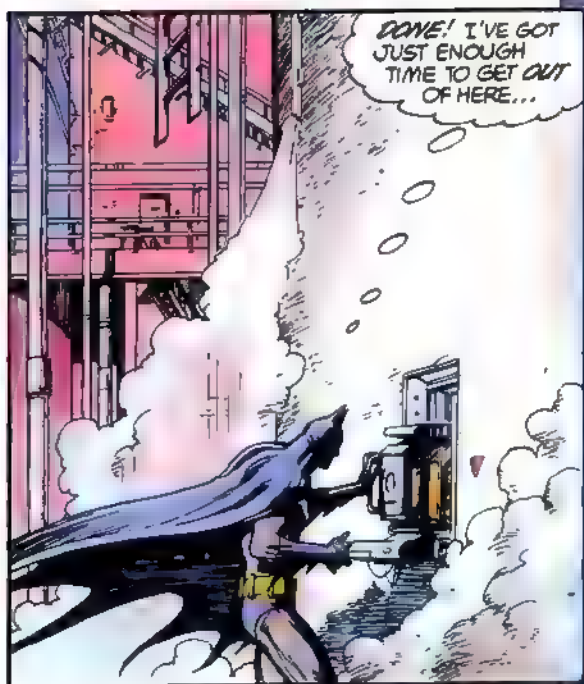




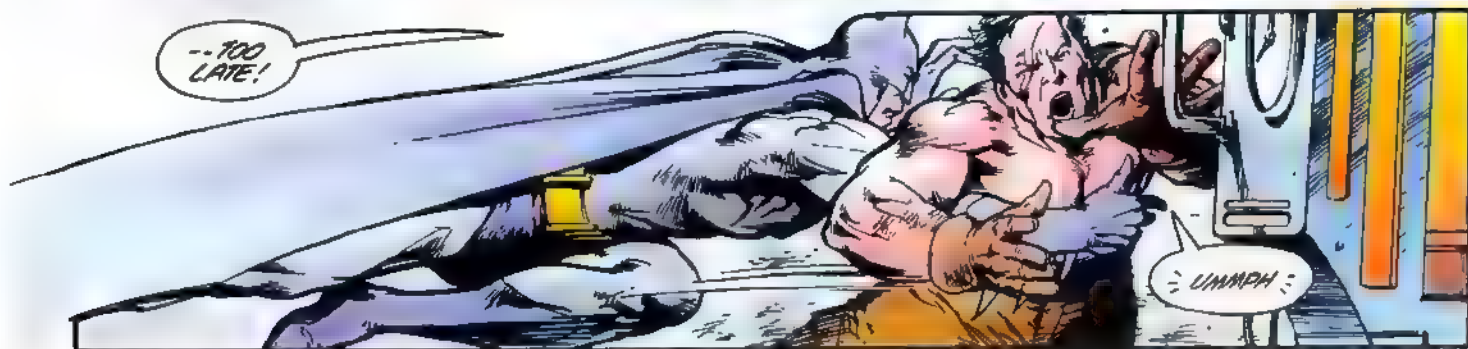








THAT'S GOT TO BE QAYIN' AS I THOUGHT HE HAS HIS OWN MISSION HERE...





ZING SPWEE

BELOVED...?

THERE!  
BY THE GANTRY!  
TELL THE BASE  
WE'VE GOT 'EM!

"RESUMING  
COUNTDOWN:  
10-9-8--"

SHOULD BE JUST  
FIVE SECONDS  
MORE...!

"...7-6-5--"

"NO--!"

CHPPPT

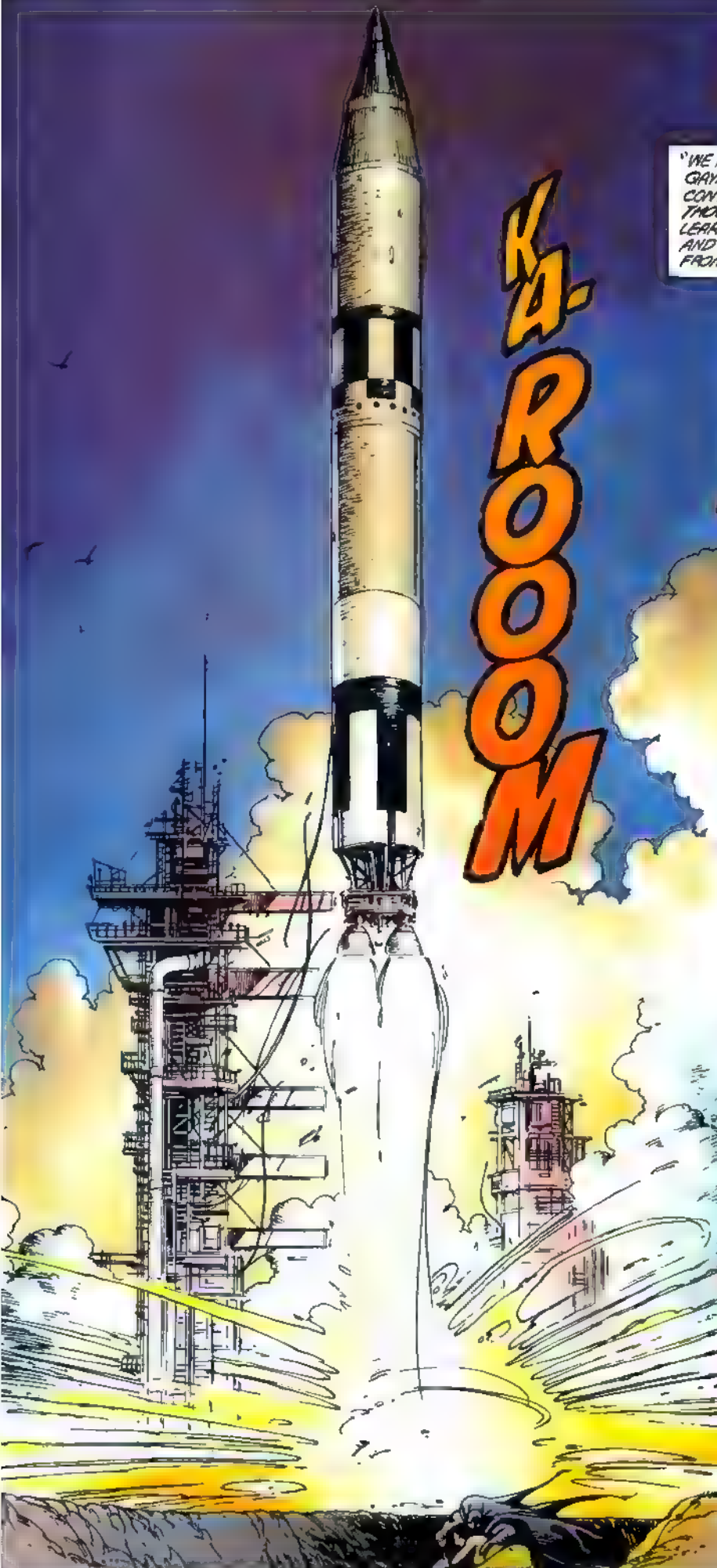
"LIFTOFF!"

NOTHING MORE I  
CAN DO! BUT IF  
I LET GAYIN THINK  
HE'S WON...

... THE ROCKET MAY  
DO PART OF MY  
JOB FOR ME!

FWOOOON





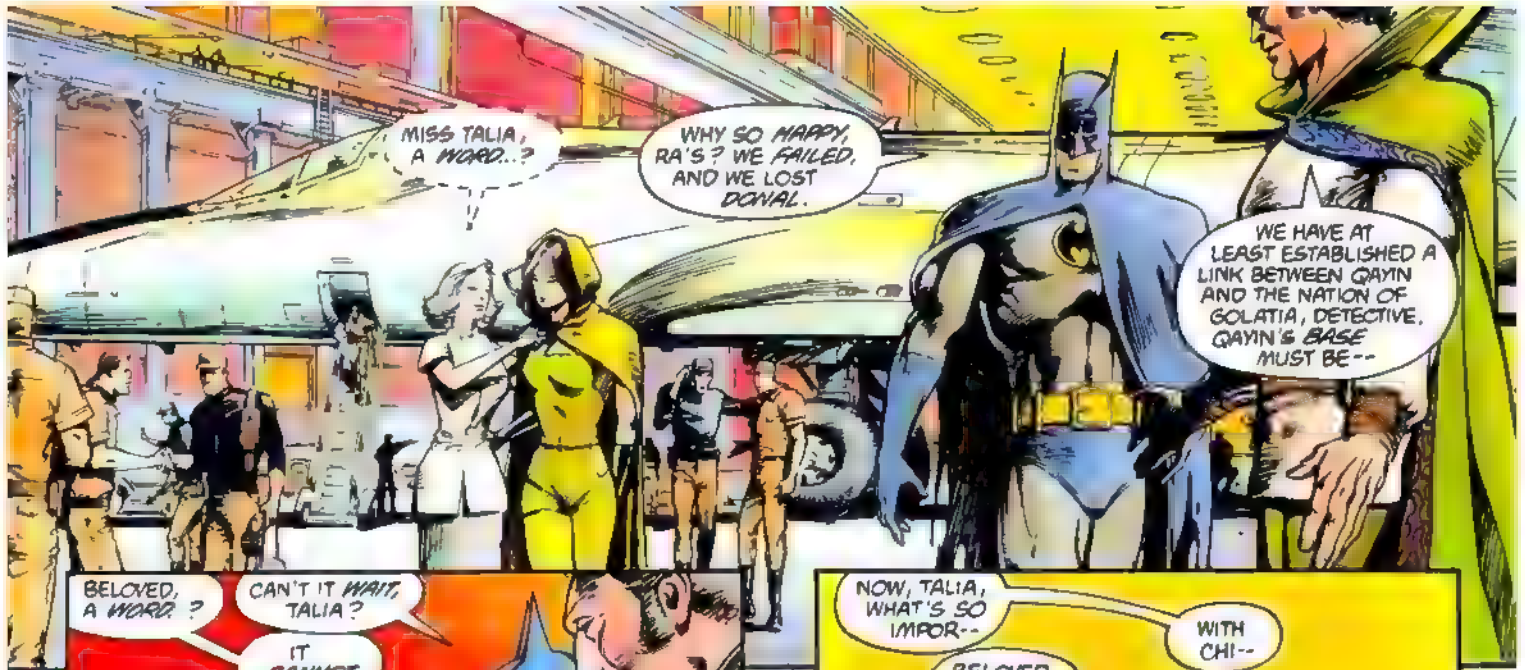
"WHAT DO YOU LOOK  
FOR, BELOVED? DID  
WE NOT FAIL?"

"WE FAILED TO ATTACH THE BOMB, IN CASE  
GAYIN DOES TRY TO USURP THE WEATHER  
CONTROL SATELLITE FOR HIS OWN ENDS--I  
THOUGHT HE MIGHT WANT IT WHEN I  
LEARNED OF HIS INTEREST IN RAINMAKING,  
AND THE FACT IT WAS BEING LAUNCHED  
FROM GOLATIA WAS ANOTHER CLUE..."

...BUT I WAS  
HOPING THE  
**BACKWASH**  
WOULD AT  
LEAST TAKE  
CARE OF  
GAYIN FOR  
ME--NO  
SUCH LUCK.

THERE WILL  
BE **ANOTHER**  
TIME, BELOVED.  
THEN WE WILL  
"TAKE CARE"  
OF HIM--  
**PERMA-  
NENTLY.**





MISS TALIA,  
A WORD...?

WHY SO HAPPY,  
RA'S? WE FAILED,  
AND WE LOST  
DORIAL.

WE HAVE AT  
LEAST ESTABLISHED A  
LINK BETWEEN GAYIN  
AND THE NATION OF  
GOLATIA, DETECTIVE.  
GAYIN'S BASE  
MUST BE--

BELOVED,  
A WORD?

CAN'T IT WAIT,  
TALIA?

IT  
CANNOT

GO, DETECTIVE,  
WE SHALL SPEAK  
OF THIS  
LATER.

NOW, TALIA,  
WHAT'S SO IMPOR--

WITH  
CHI--

BELOVED,  
I AM WITH  
CHILD.

I AM  
PREGNANT.

YOU'RE.

PREGNANT?



THAT'S  
WONDERFUL!

ISN'T  
IT?



DETECTIVE, DR.  
WELTMANN COULD  
NOT KEEP THIS  
FROM ME. MY  
CONGRATULATIONS.

ARE YOU SO  
HAPPY TO BE  
A GRAND-  
FATHER,  
FATHER?

I  
AM...

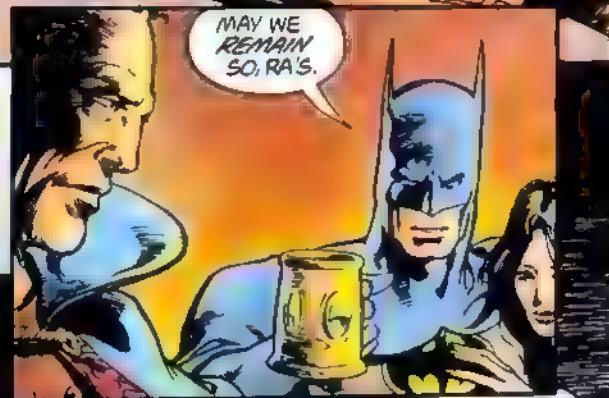
... IF IT  
MEANS YOUR  
HAPPINESS.

IT  
DOES.

"A CHILD. WE'LL  
NAME IT THOMAS..  
OR MARTHA, IF  
IT'S A GIRL.

"IT'LL BE THE  
HAPPIEST BABY  
IN THE WORLD."

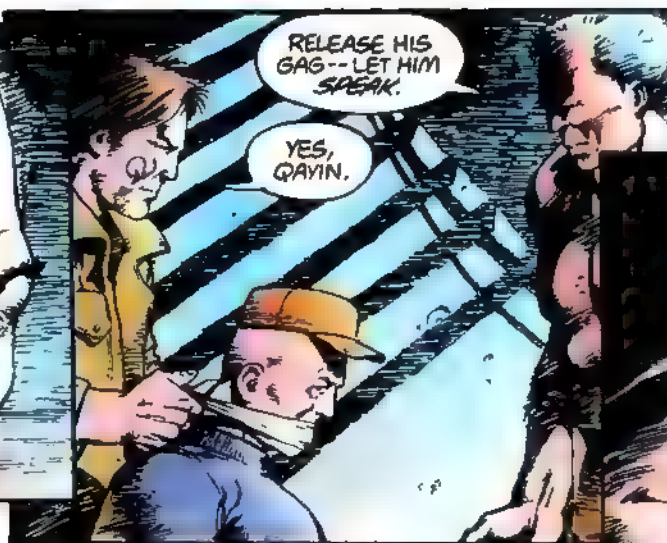








... BUT ANY OLD PORT  
IN A STORM, I  
SUPPOSE.

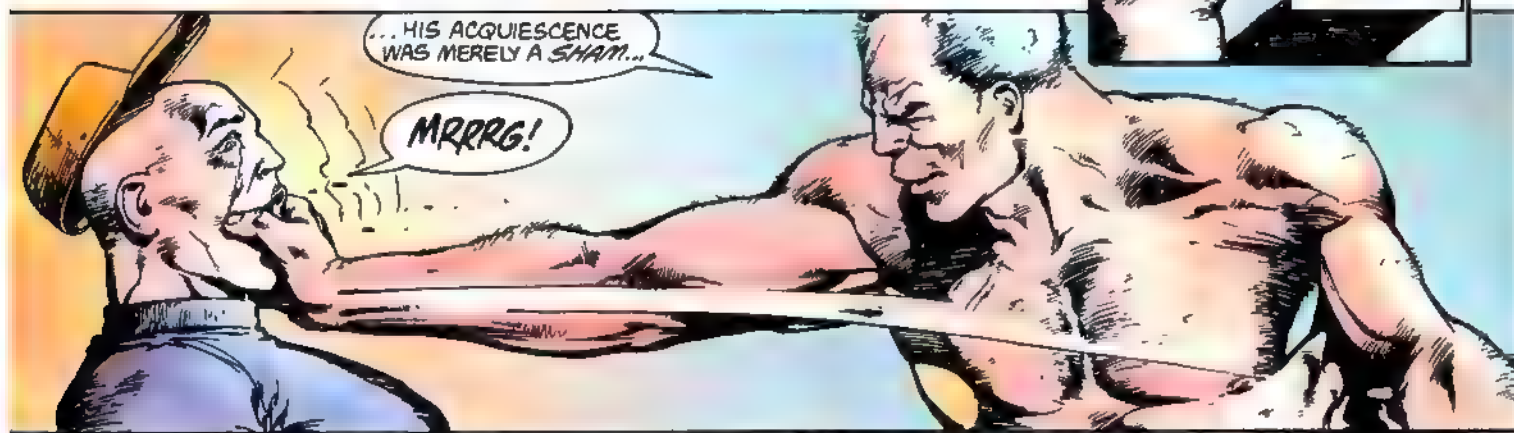


RELEASE HIS  
GAG-- LET HIM  
SPEAK.

YES,  
QAVIN.

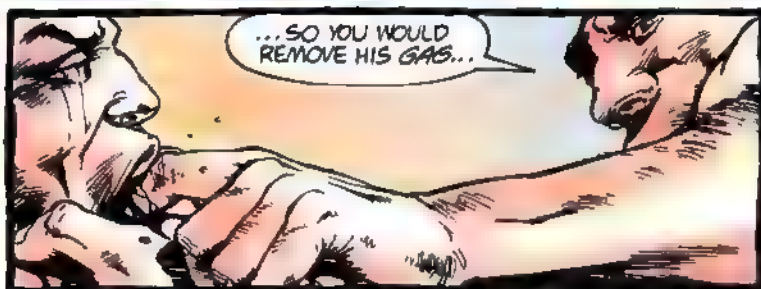


"HA!" AS I  
SUSPECTED."

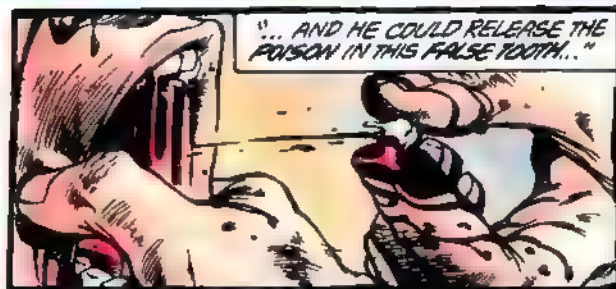


... HIS ACQUIESCENCE  
WAS MERELY A SHAM...

MRRRG!



... SO YOU WOULD  
REMOVE HIS GAG...



"... AND HE COULD RELEASE THE  
POISON IN THIS FALSE TOOTH..."



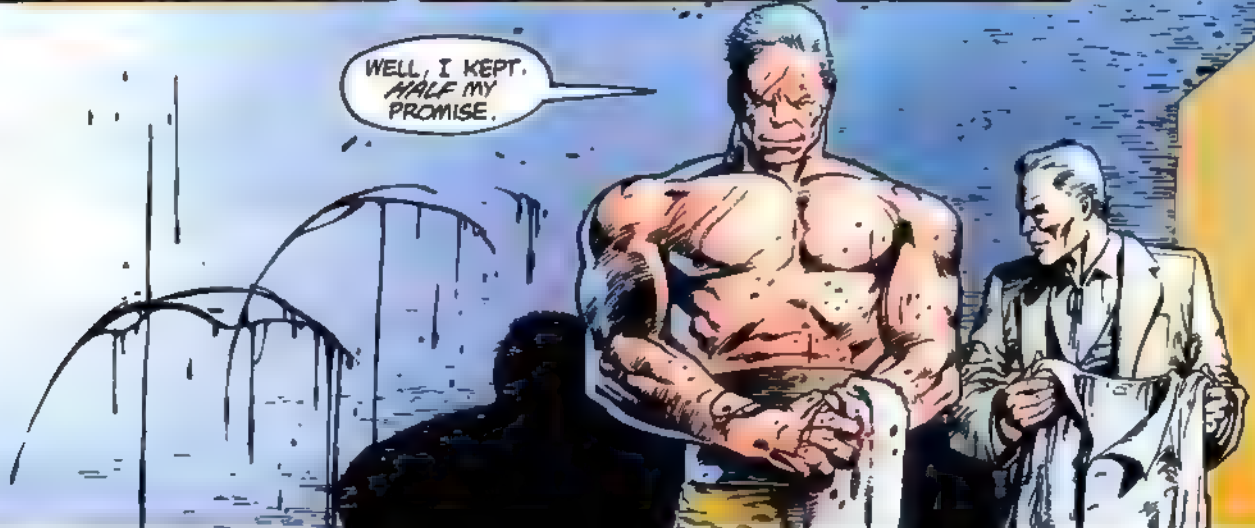
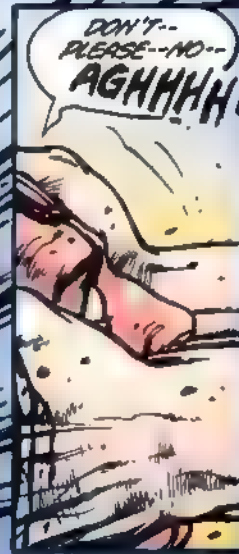
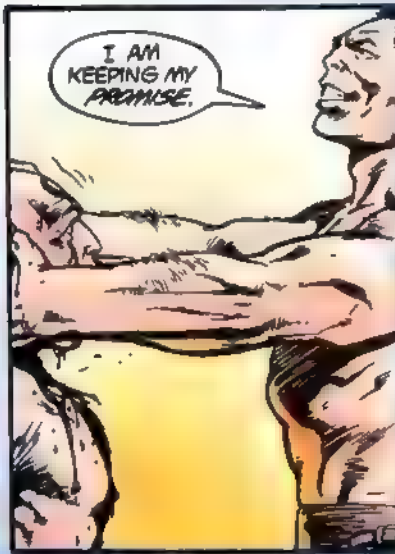
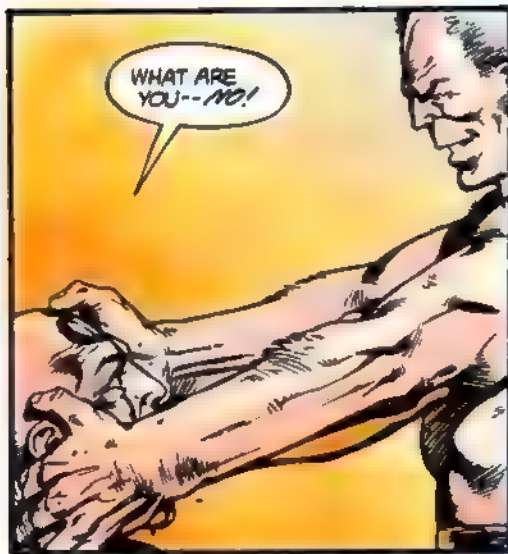
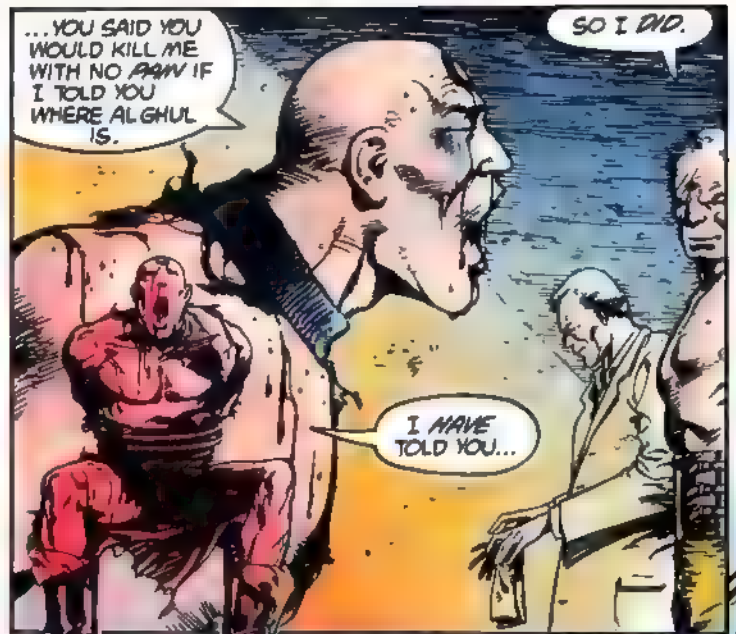
... THUS DEPRIVING ME  
OF DESIRED INFORMATION...  
AND YOU OF NO LITTLE  
PLEASURE, DR. HALLAM.

MUST  
DISCOURTEOUS.

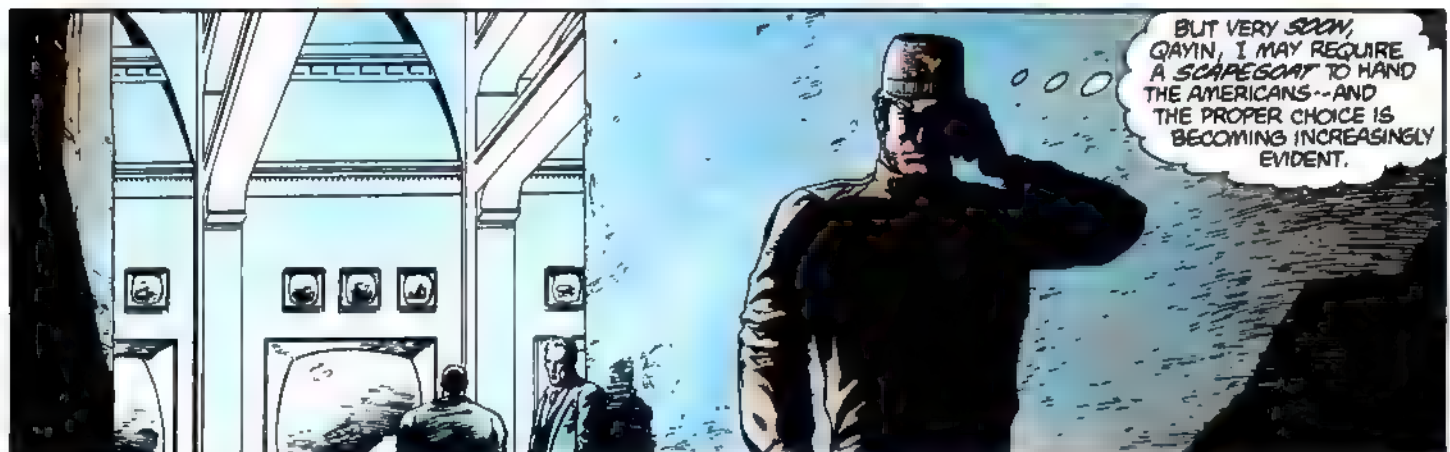
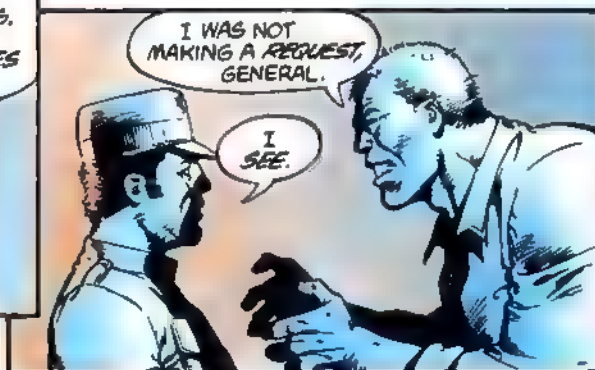
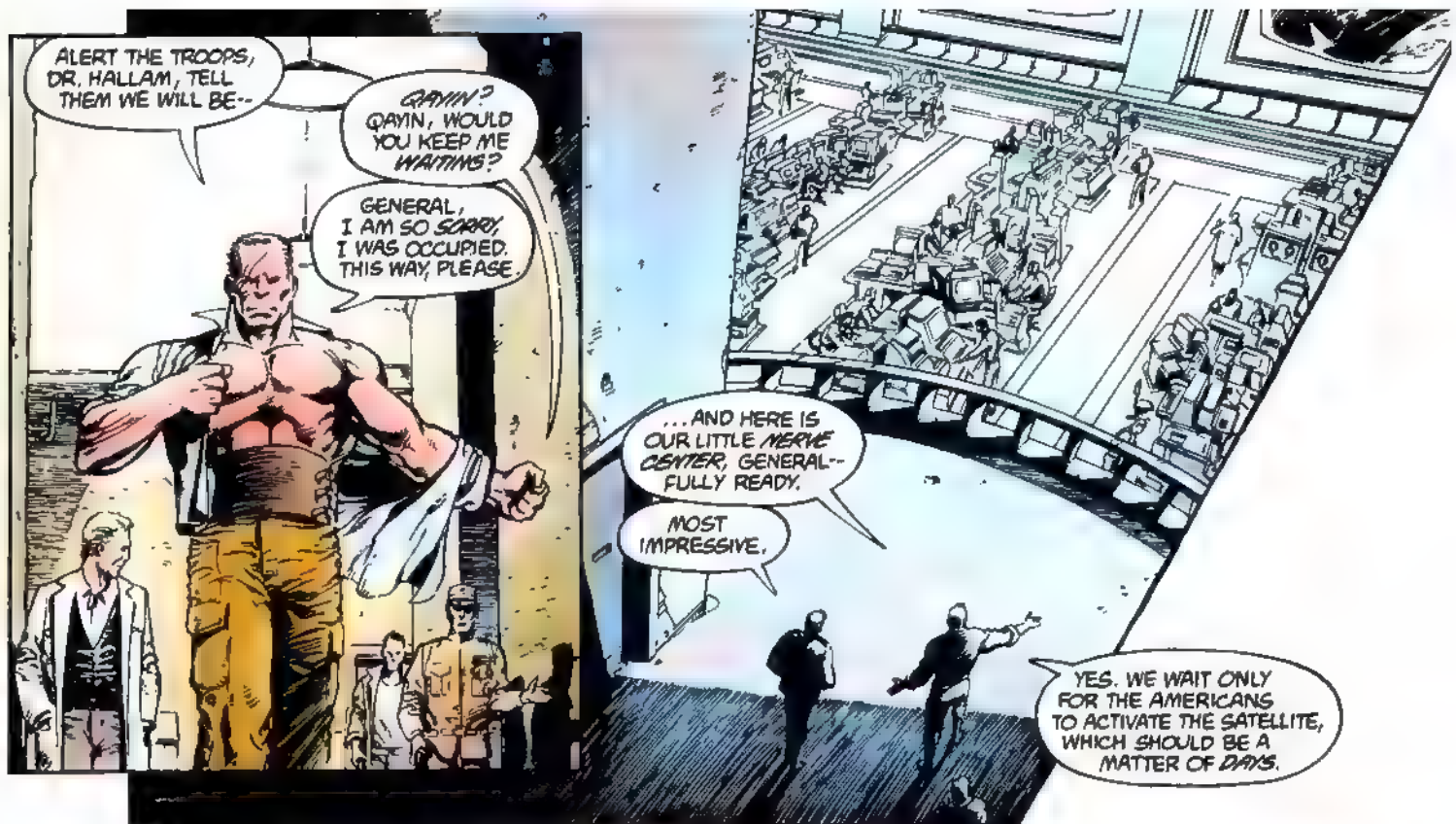


'EARLIER, YOU WISHED  
TO TALK, AND WE WOULD  
NOT LET YOU. NOW, YOU  
MAY NOT WISH TO...

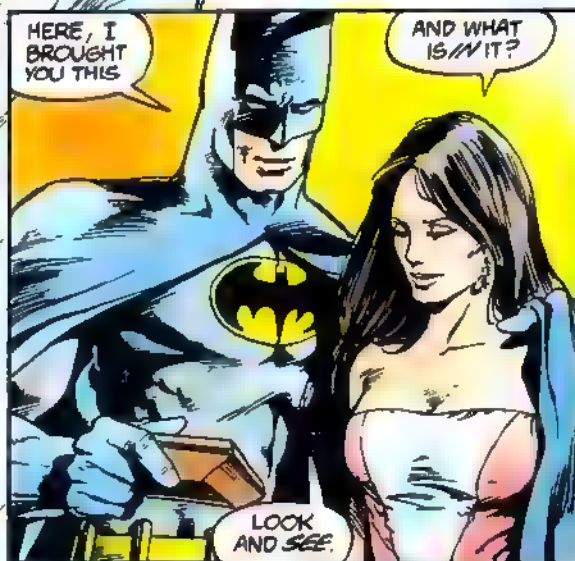
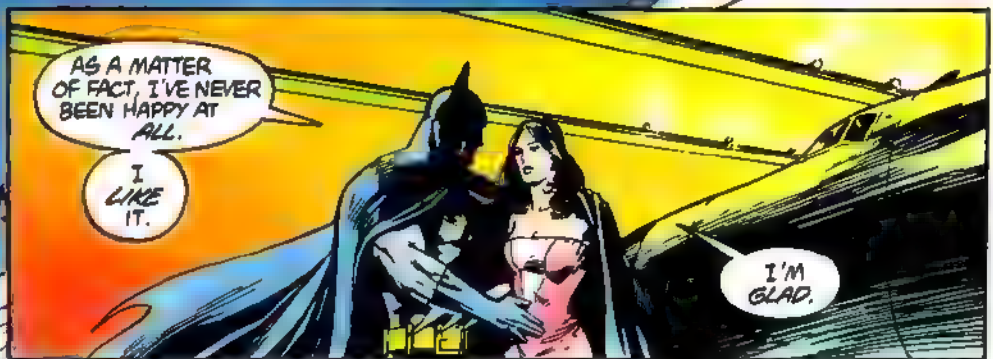
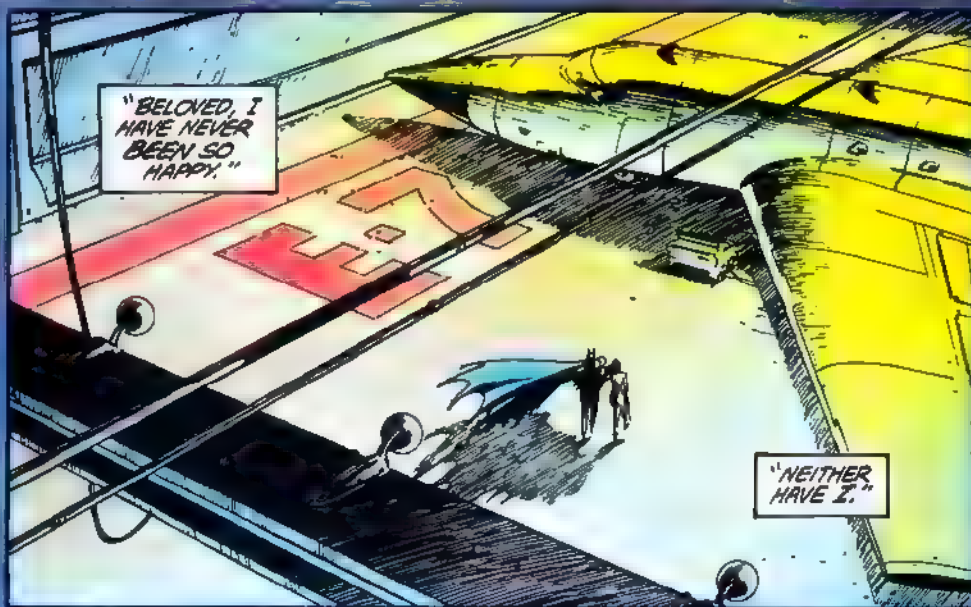




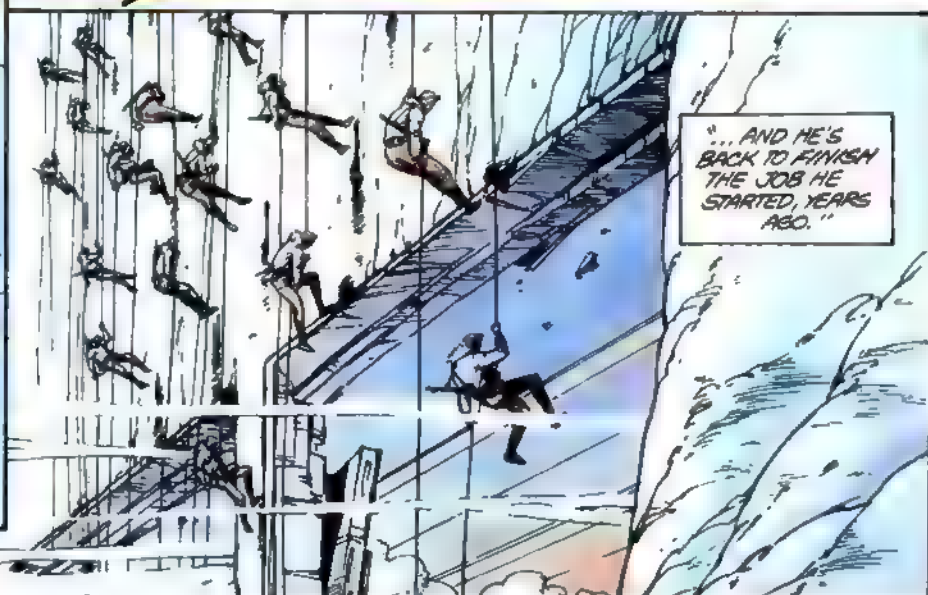
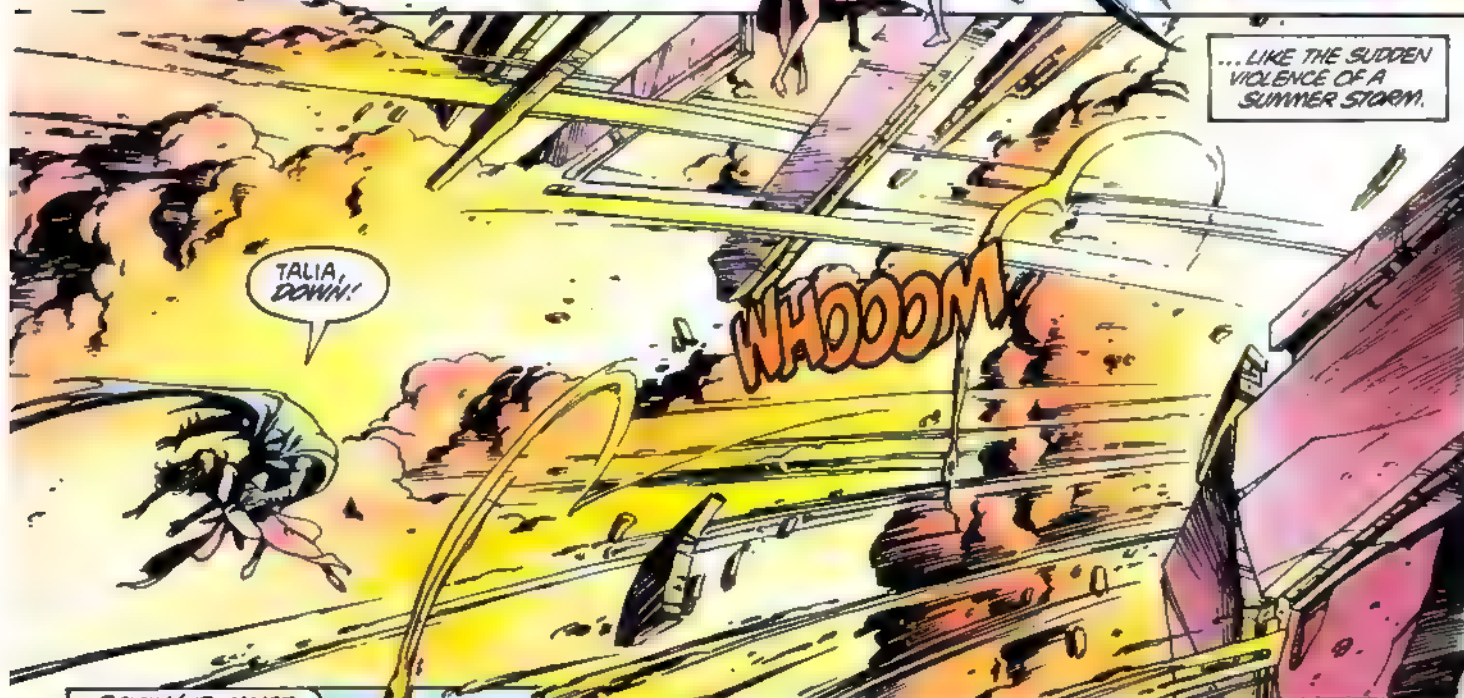








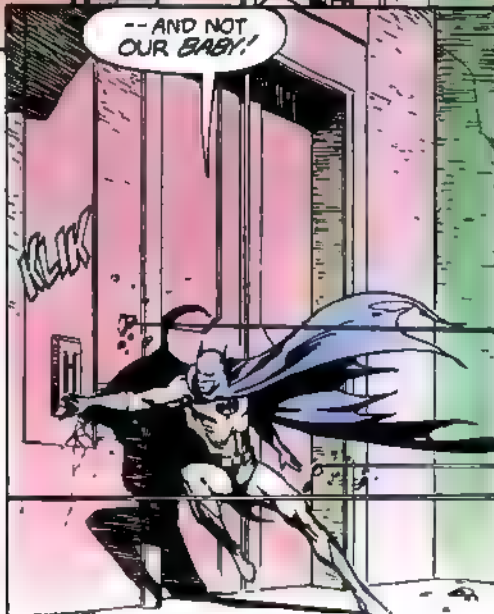
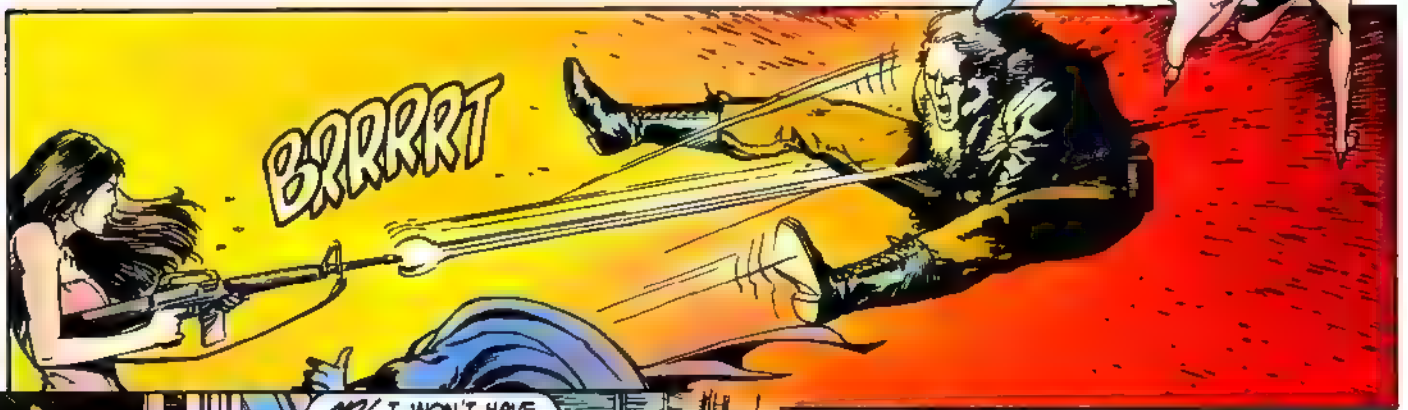
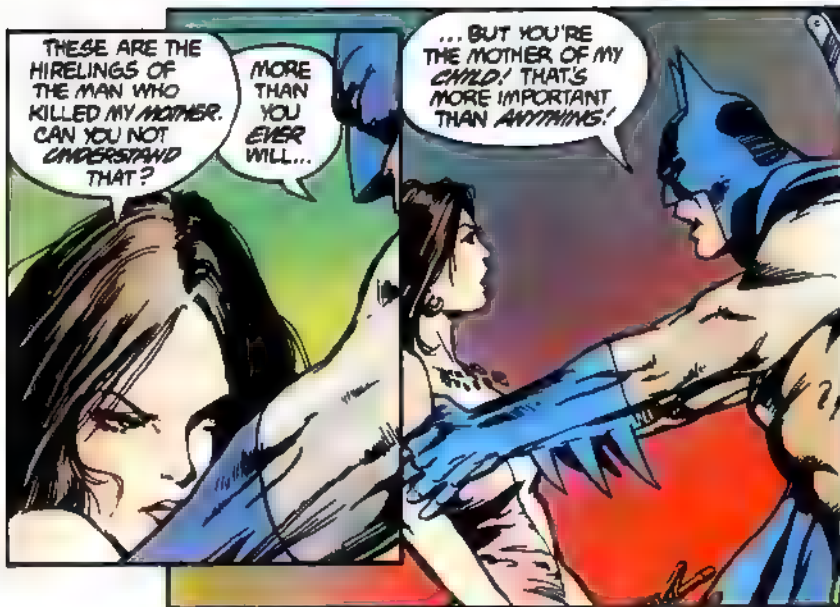




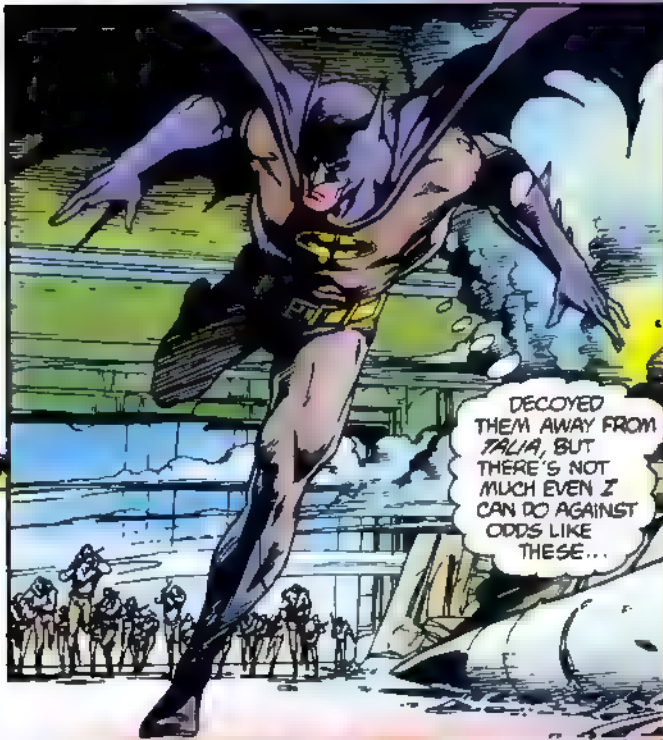




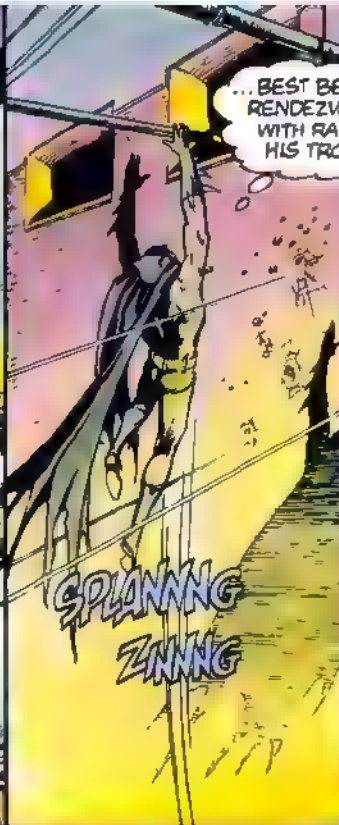






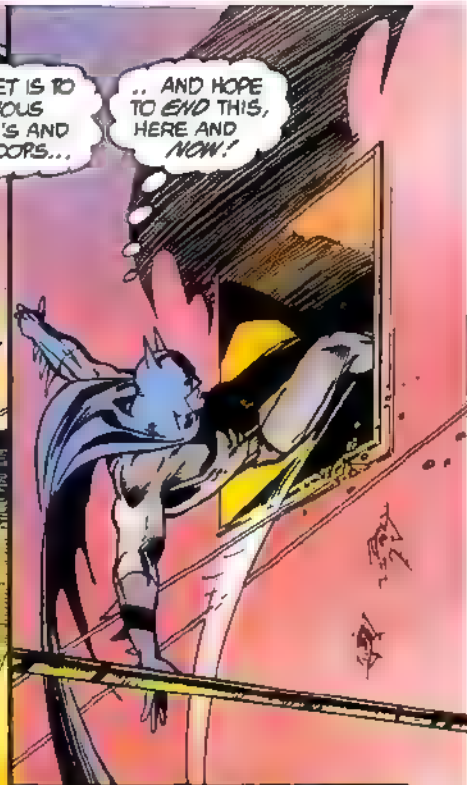


DECEYED THEM AWAY FROM TALIA, BUT THERE'S NOT MUCH EVEN I CAN DO AGAINST ODDS LIKE THESE...



...BEST BET IS TO RENDEZVOUS WITH RA'S AND HIS TROOPS...

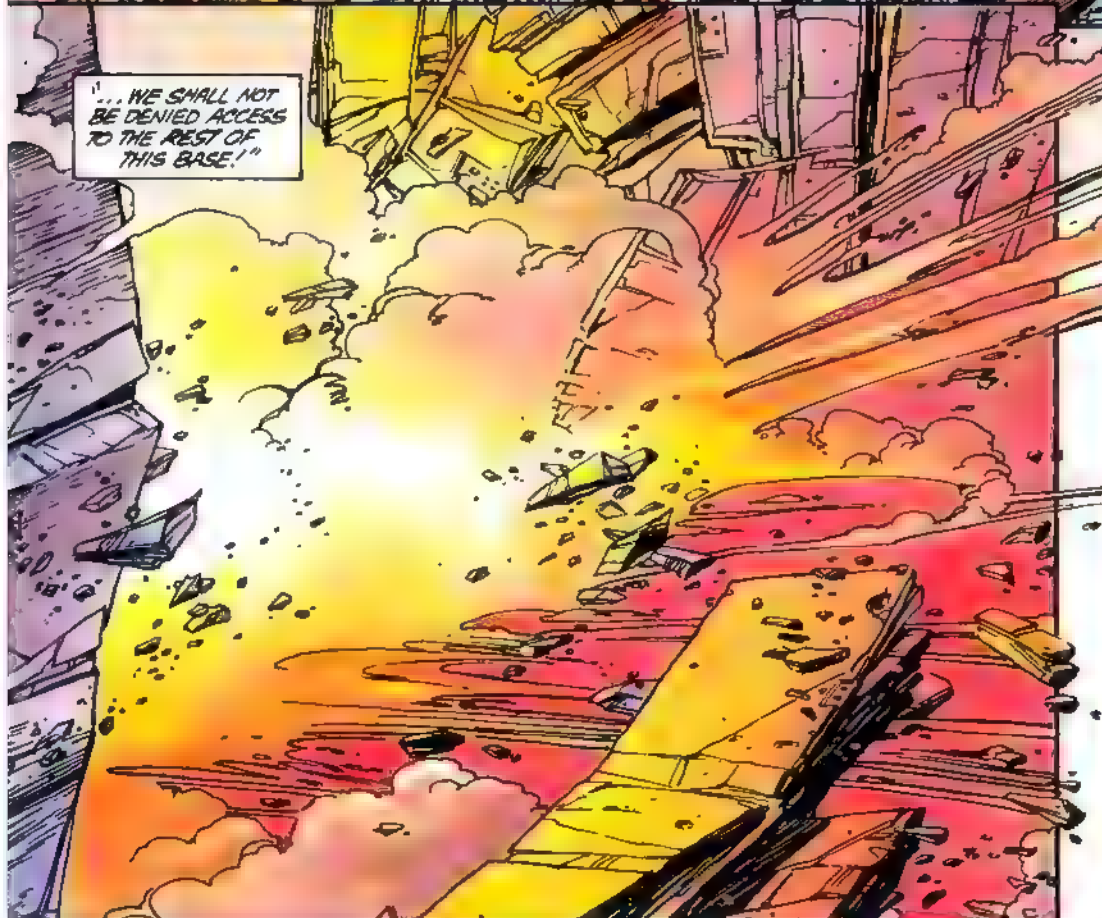
.. AND HOPE TO END THIS, HERE AND NOW!



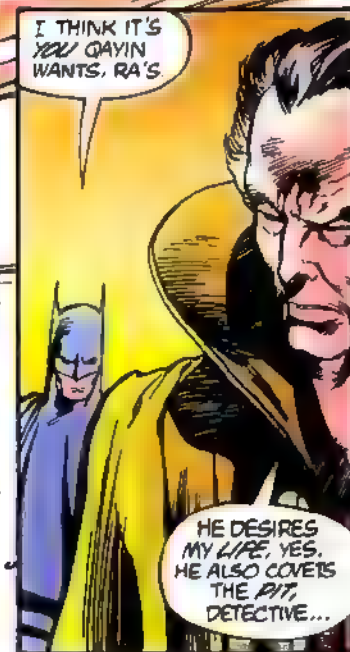
WE HAVE NOW, QAYIN!



WE OCCUPY A MERE FOOTHOLD! BRING THE EXPLOSIVES...



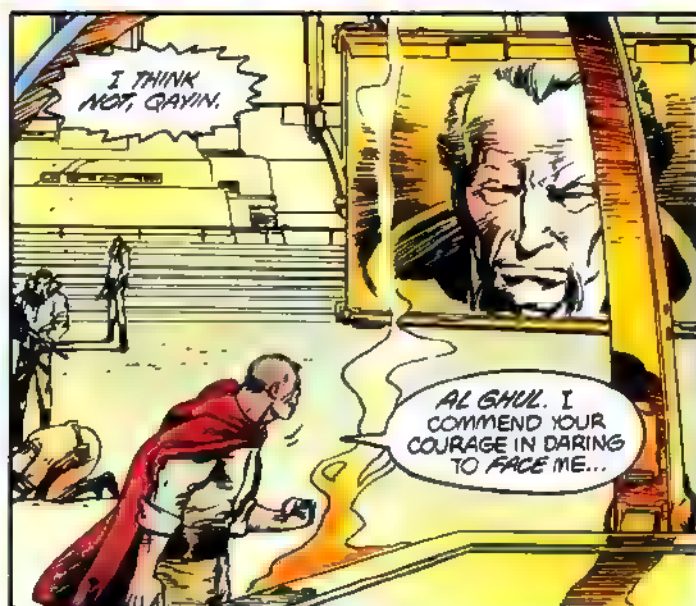
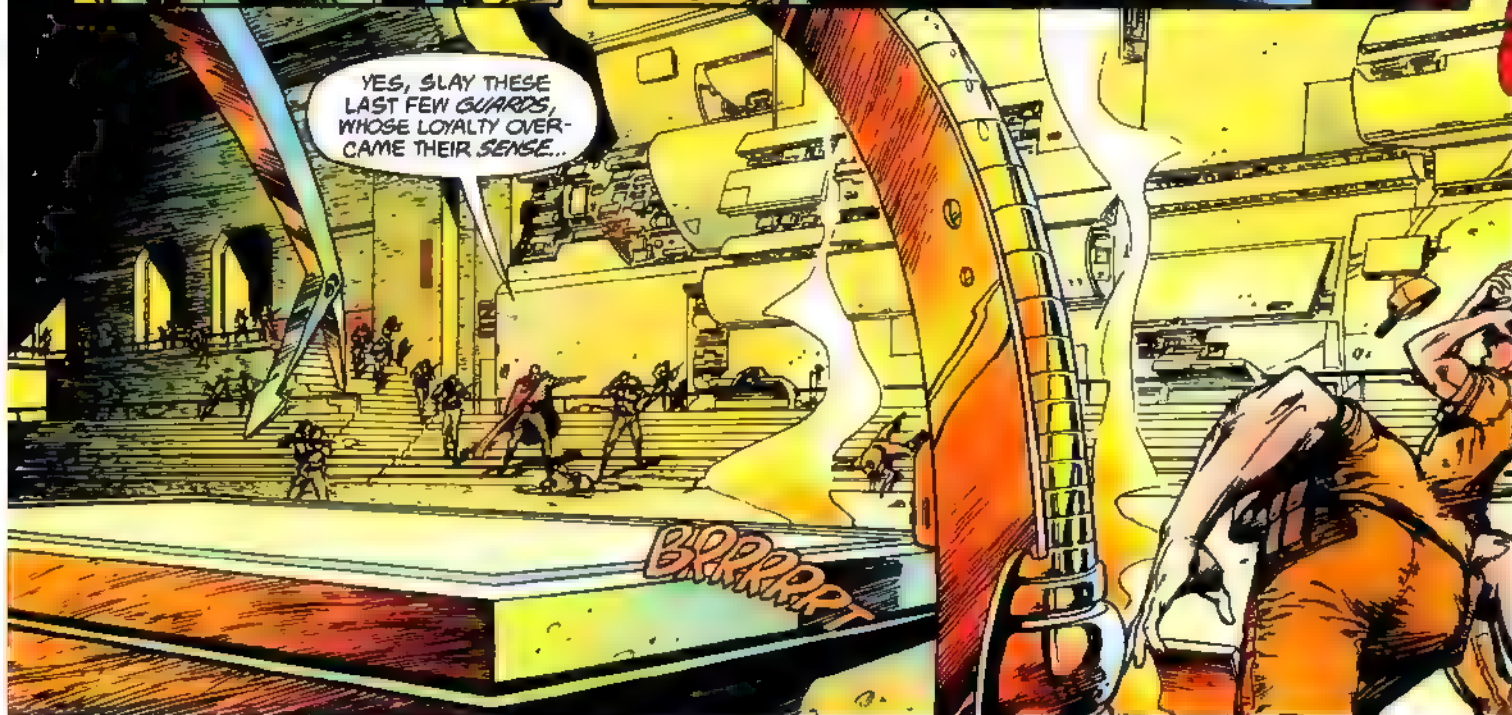
"... WE SHALL NOT BE DENIED ACCESS TO THE REST OF THIS BASE!"



I THINK IT'S YOU QAYIN WANTS, RA'S

HE DESIRES MY LIFE, YES. HE ALSO COVERS THE PIT, DETECTIVE...







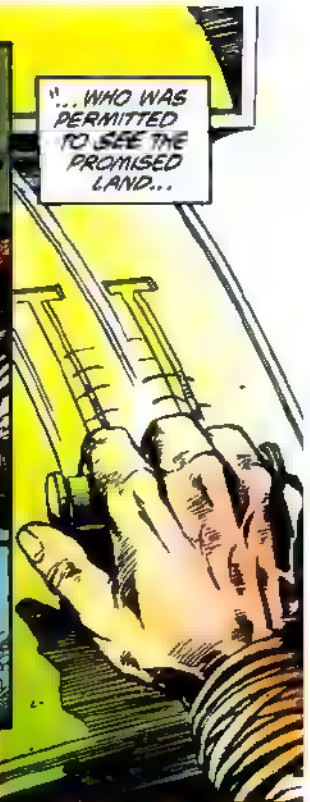


...IN MY  
MOMENT OF  
TRIUMPH.

YOU  
ALWAYS  
SPOKE TOO  
QUICKLY,  
GAYIN.



YOU MAY RECALL  
THE STORY OF  
MOSES...



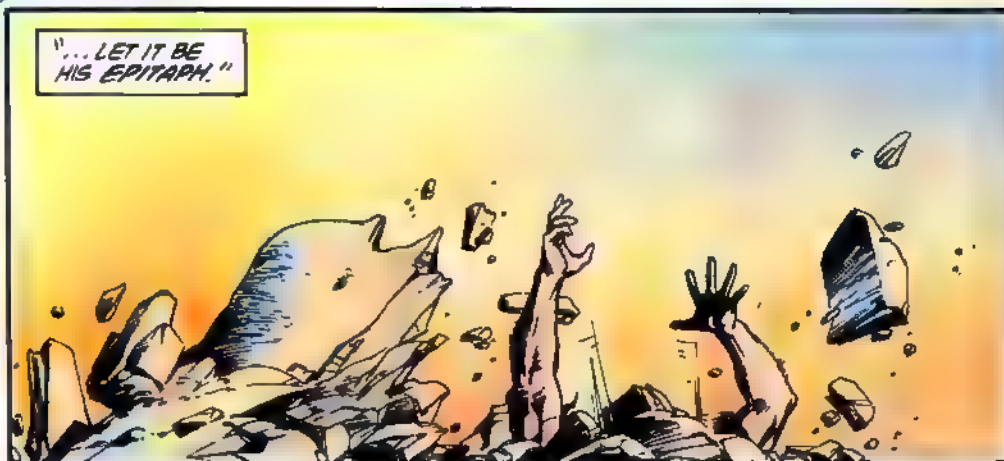
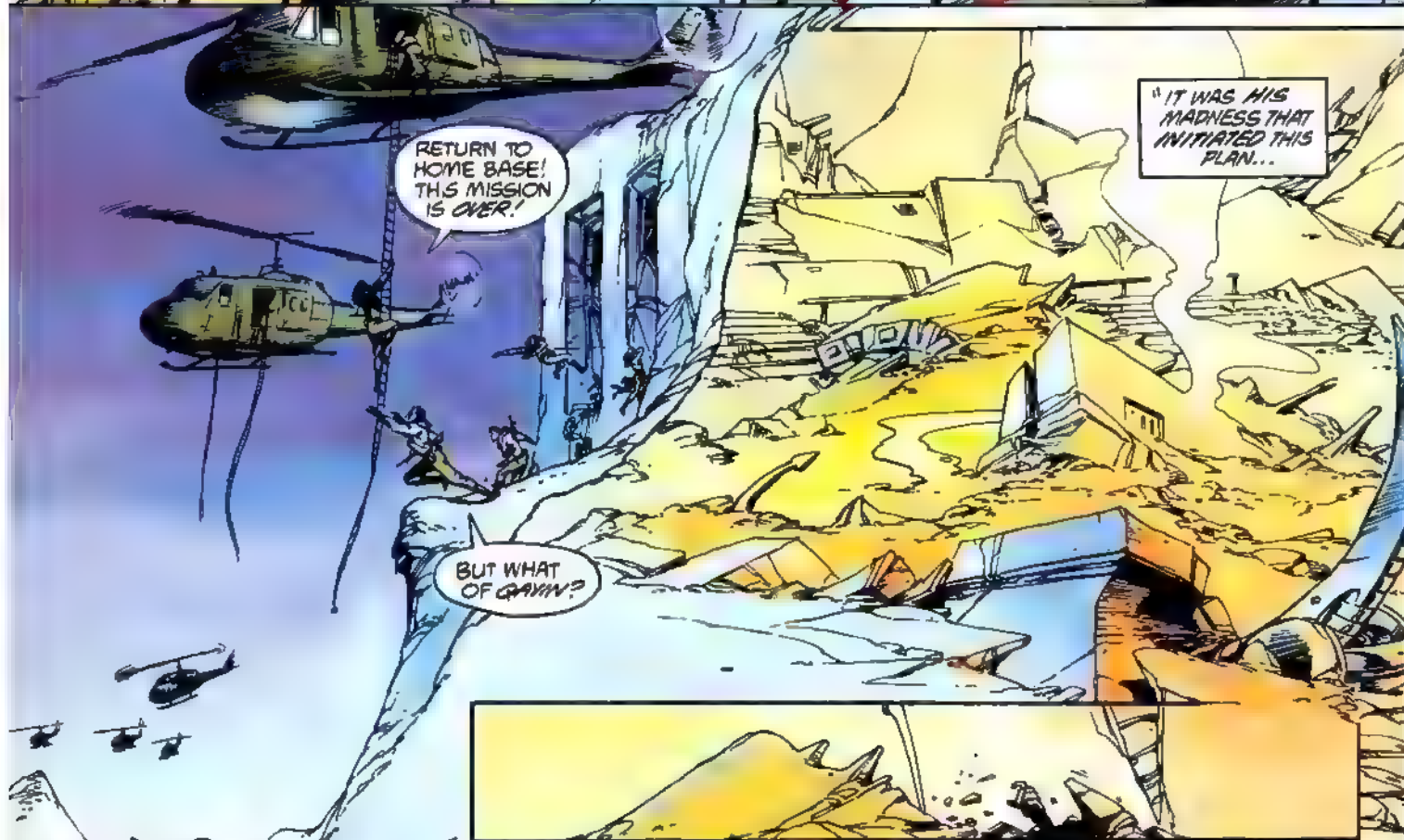
...WHO WAS  
PERMITTED  
TO SEE THE  
PROMISED  
LAND...



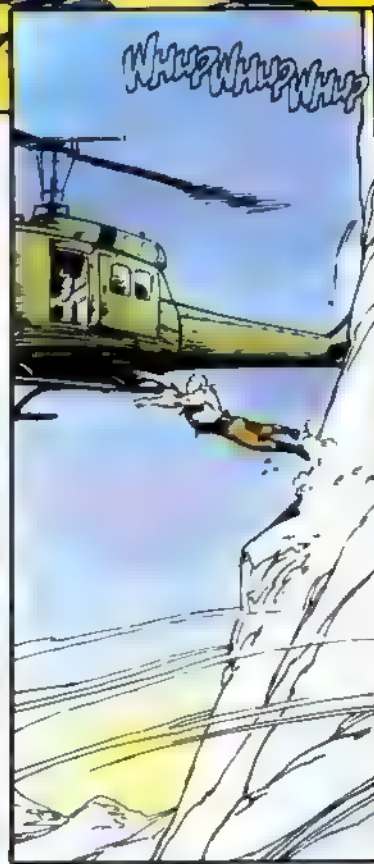
...BUT NEVER  
TO ENTER IT

WHOOOM!

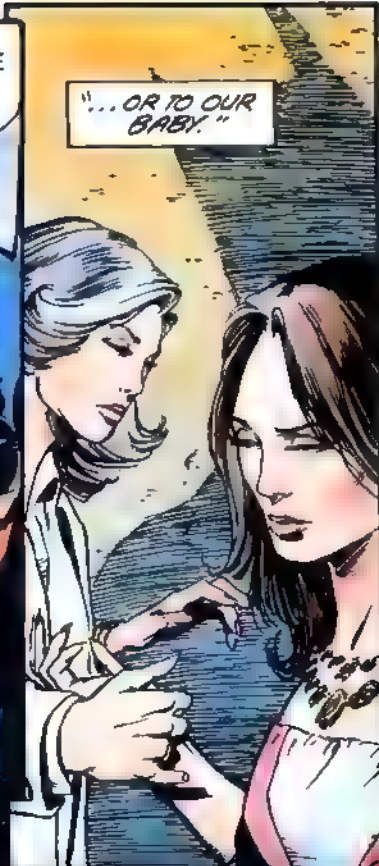
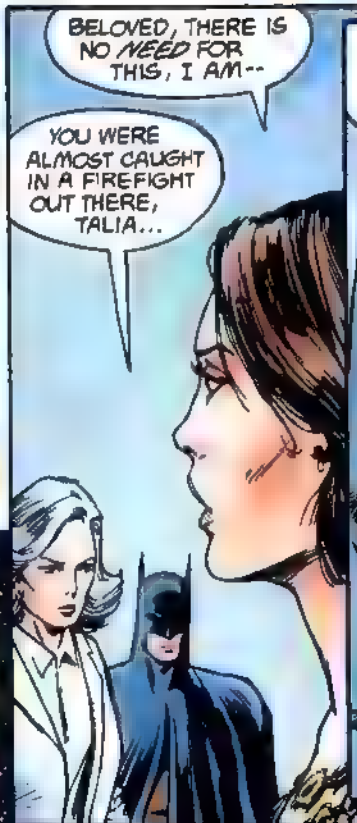
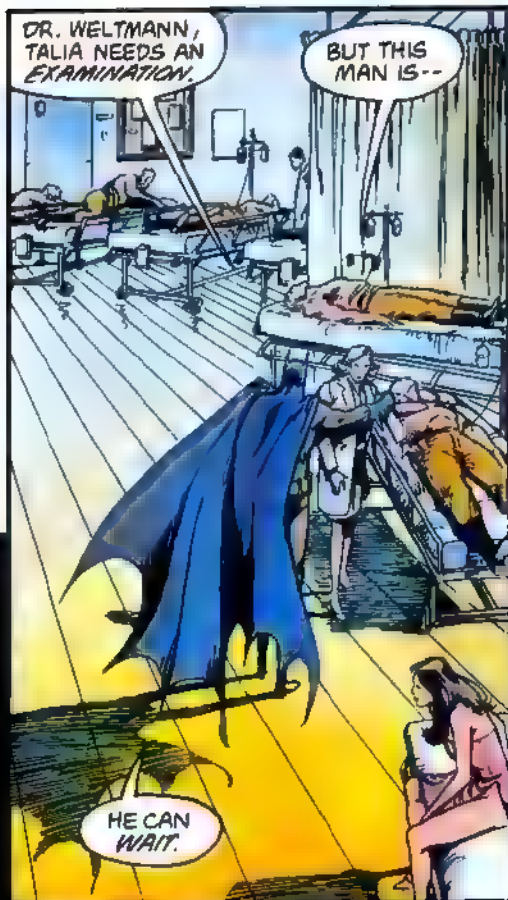












SKRRRRK CANAVERAL  
TO GOLATIA BASE, SATELLITE  
HAS REACHED OPTIMUM  
ORBIT, RECOMMEND YOU  
ACTIVATE. OVER

1  
ROGER, CANAVERAL,  
GOLATIA BASE COPIES...

... AND IS ACTIVATING.  
PREPARING TO TEST  
MAGNETIC FIELD  
GENERATOR IN FIVE  
SECONDS. FIVE-FOUR-  
THREE-TWO-ONE-



ZERO.

"WELL, SO FAR, SO GOOD..."

...THE MAGNETIC FIELD'S AFFECTING THE OZONE LAYER, ALL RIGHT. WHAT DO YOU THINK, HARRY?

READ-OUTS LOOK GOOD...

...LET'S TRY A LITTLE TEST...

"...SEE IF YOU CAN MAKE IT RAIN"

**KA-KROOOM**

"THE AMERICANS HAVE ACTIVATED THE SATELLITE, GENERAL YOSSID..."

...IT SEEMS ABLE TO CONTROL THE WEATHER, AS OUR SOURCES PREDICTED.

AN AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY, WEATHER CONTROL...

...LET US RELIEVE THEM OF IT, DR. HALLAM.

YES, MR. QAYIN. TECHNICIANS, ACTIVATE THE CIRCUITRY IMPLANT.

.. NO, SIR, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S CAUSING IT THE SATELLITE'S NOT RESPONDING TO OUR COMMANDS ANYMORE, IT'S--

YES, SIR...





...SIR, IT'S  
GONE.  
VANISHED OFF  
THE SCREEN.

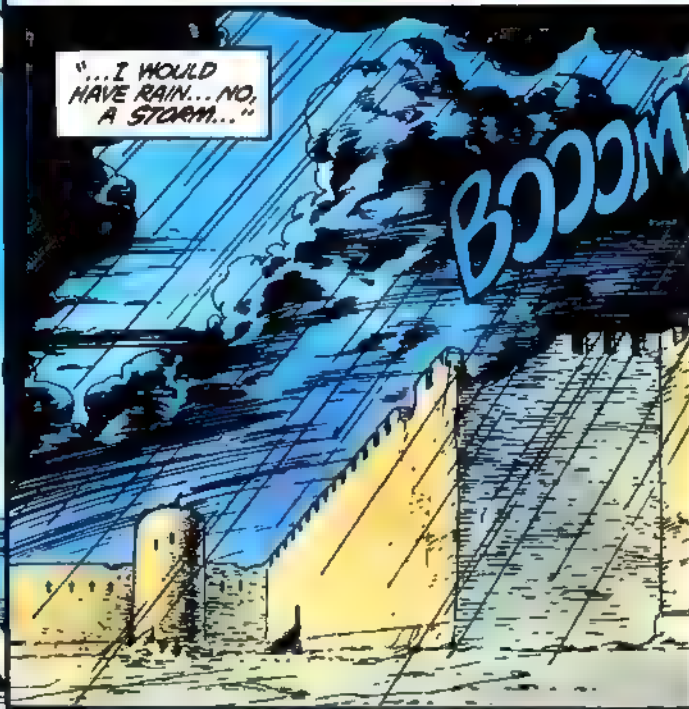
"ACTIVATE  
SELF-  
DESTRUCT."

SELF-  
DESTRUCT  
INOPERATIVE.  
WE'VE LOST  
IT, SIR.



THE SATELLITE IS  
OURS, MR. QAYIN.

MINE, HALLAM.  
LET US TRY A  
TEST, THEN...

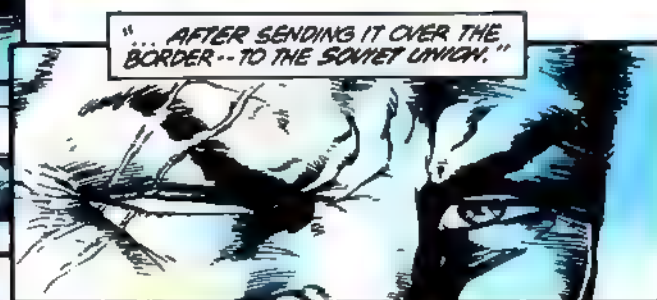


"...I WOULD  
HAVE RAIN... NO,  
A STORM..."

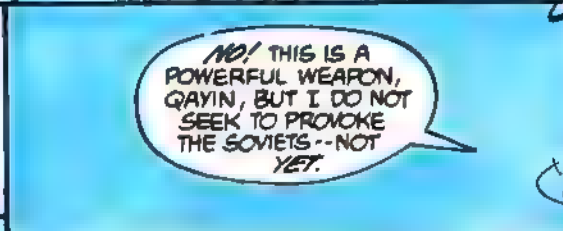


EXCELLENT! NO  
NATION SHALL  
STAND AGAINST US!

INCREASE THE POWER OF  
THE STORM, HALLAM... MAKE  
IT A HURRICANE...



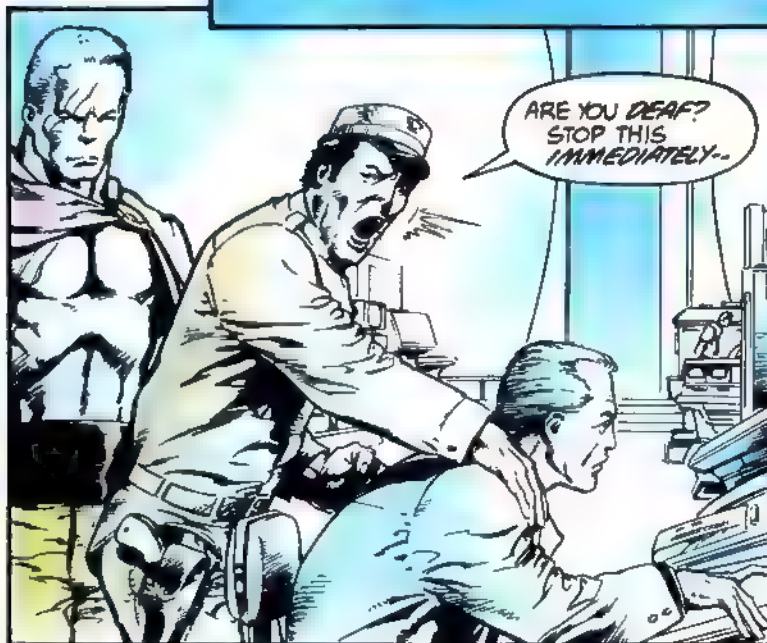
"... AFTER SENDING IT OVER THE  
BORDER-- TO THE SOVIET UNION."



NO! THIS IS A  
POWERFUL WEAPON,  
QAYIN, BUT I DO NOT  
SEEK TO PROVOKE  
THE SOVIETS--NOT  
YET.



"MY  
ORDERS  
STAND,  
DR.  
HALLAM."

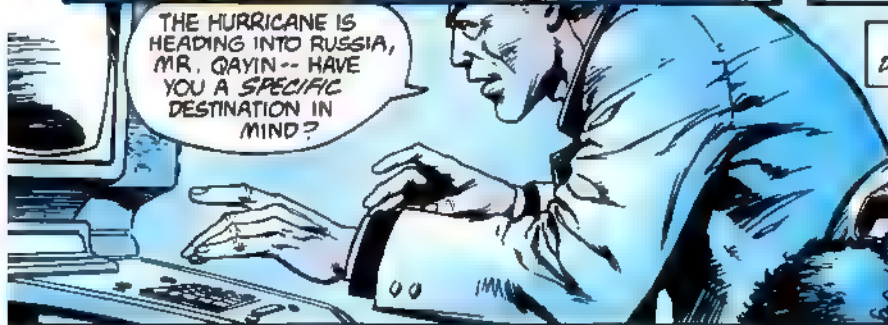


ARE YOU DEAF?  
STOP THIS  
IMMEDIATELY--



"YOUR  
WILL NO  
LONGER  
MATTERS,  
GENERAL..."





"I HAVE, DR. HALLAM..."







MR. PRESIDENT,  
A HURRICANE CAUSED  
BY YOUR WEATHER  
SATELLITE HAS ENTERED  
RUSSIA, AND DEVASTATED  
SEVERAL VILLAGES  
WE --

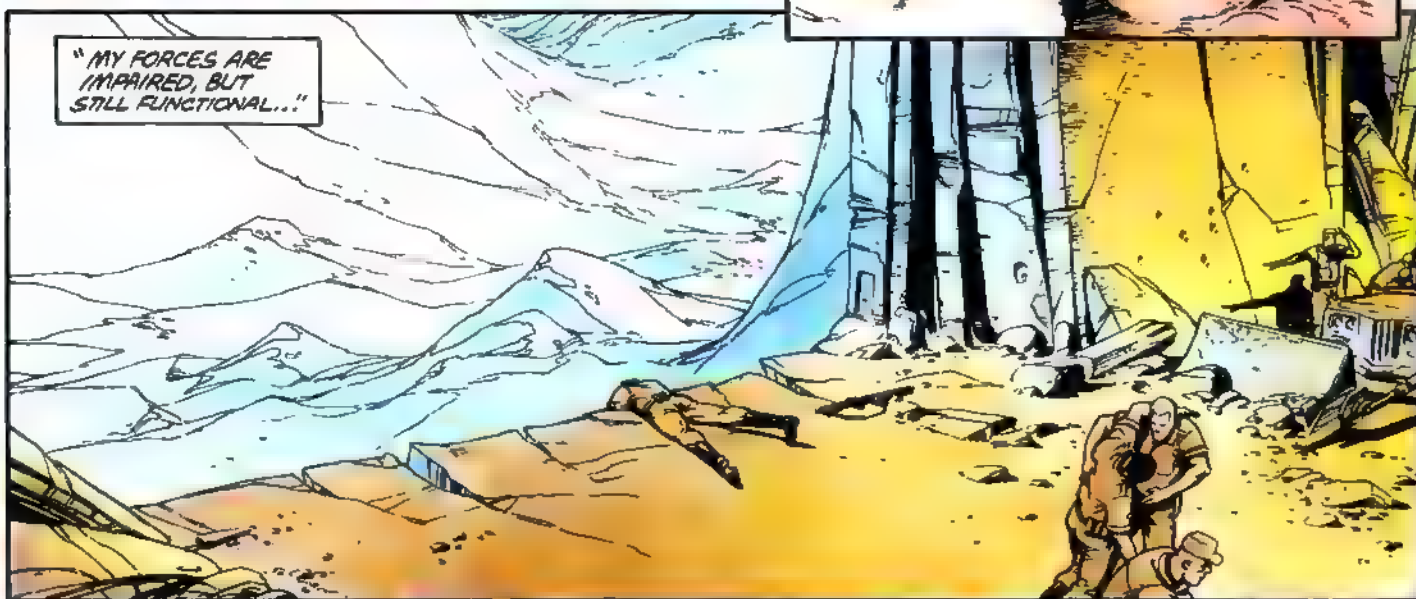
"MR. GORBACHEV, I  
ASSURE YOU, THIS IS  
NOT OUR DOING,  
SOME OUTSIDE FORCE  
HAS TAKEN OVER  
OUR SATELLITE, AND--"



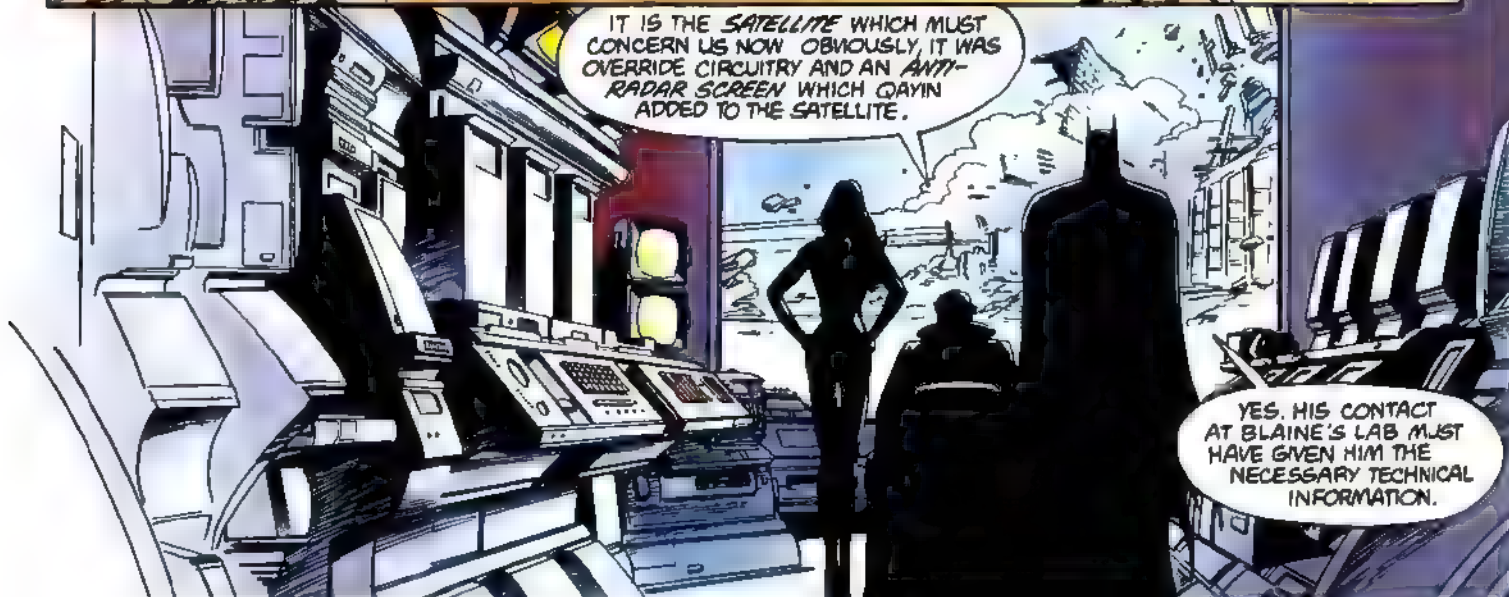
"PERHAPS SO, PERHAPS NOT. HOWEVER,  
IF THIS HURRICANE COMES WITHIN ONE  
HUNDRED MILES OF MOSCOW, IT WILL BE  
CONSIDERED AN ACT OF WAR. DO YOU  
UNDERSTAND?"

YES.

"GOOD DAY, MR.  
PRESIDENT. I  
HOPE WE WILL  
SPEAK AGAIN."



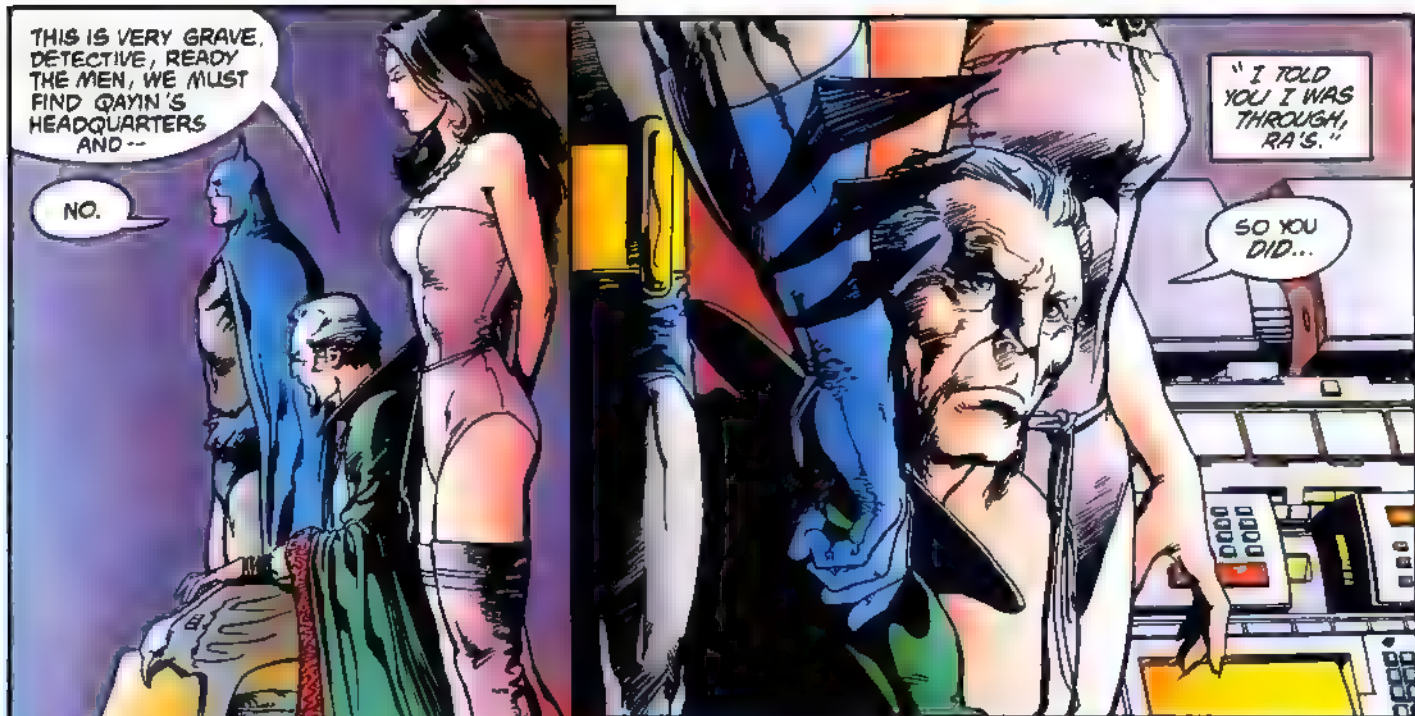
"MY FORCES ARE  
IMPAIRED, BUT  
STILL FUNCTIONAL..."



IT IS THE SATELLITE WHICH MUST  
CONCERN US NOW. OBVIOUSLY, IT WAS  
OVERRIDE CIRCUITRY AND AN ANTI-  
RADAR SCREEN WHICH GAYN  
ADDED TO THE SATELLITE.

YES. HIS CONTACT  
AT BLAINE'S LAB MUST  
HAVE GIVEN HIM THE  
NECESSARY TECHNICAL  
INFORMATION.



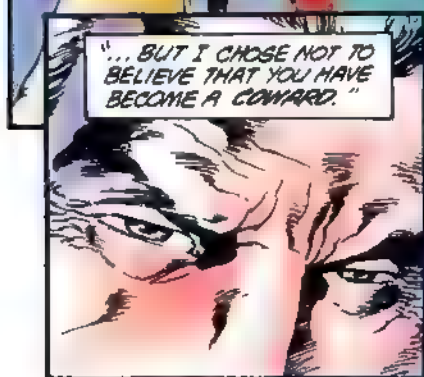


THIS IS VERY GRAVE, DETECTIVE, READY THE MEN, WE MUST FIND QAYIN'S HEADQUARTERS AND--

NO.

"I TOLD YOU I WAS THROUGH, RA'S."

SO YOU DID...



"... BUT I CHOSE NOT TO BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE BECOME A COWARD."



THAT'S *BENEATH* YOU, RA'S. I'M NOT CONCERNED FOR MY OWN SKIN...

... I WANT OUR CHILD TO HAVE A HOME ... A FAMILY...

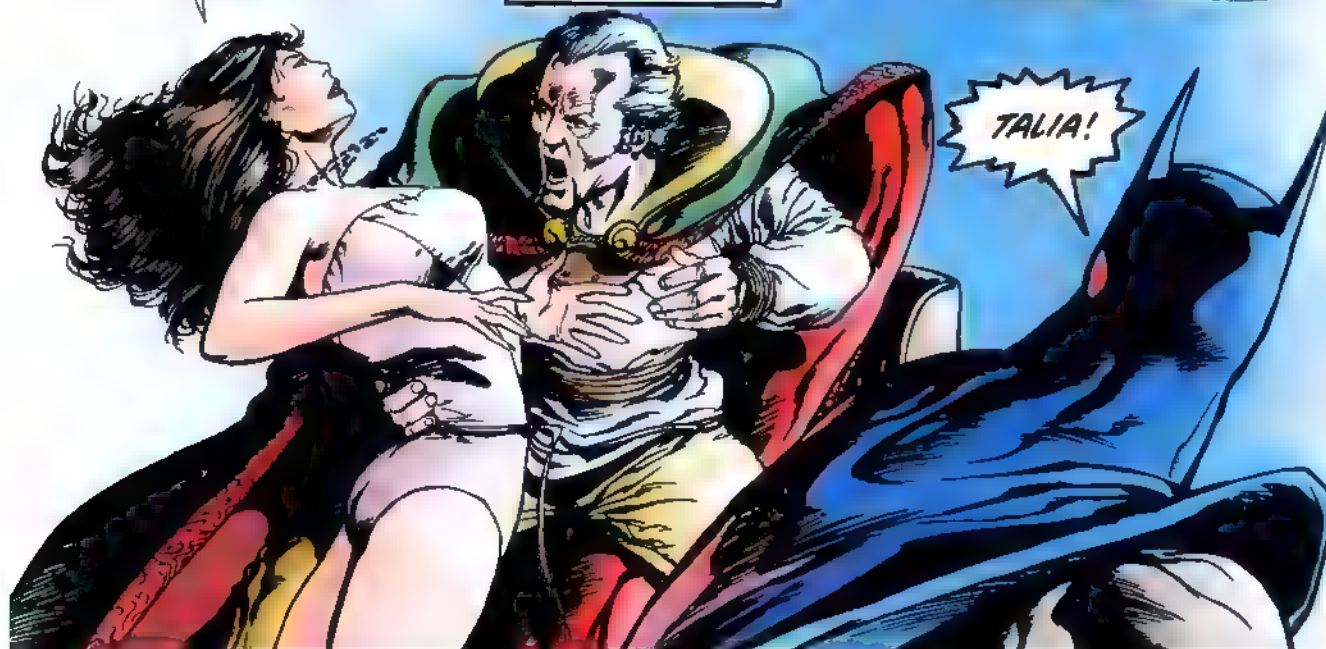


... EVERYTHING I NEVER HAD.

TALIA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU HAVEN'T SPOKEN IN OVER AN HOUR.

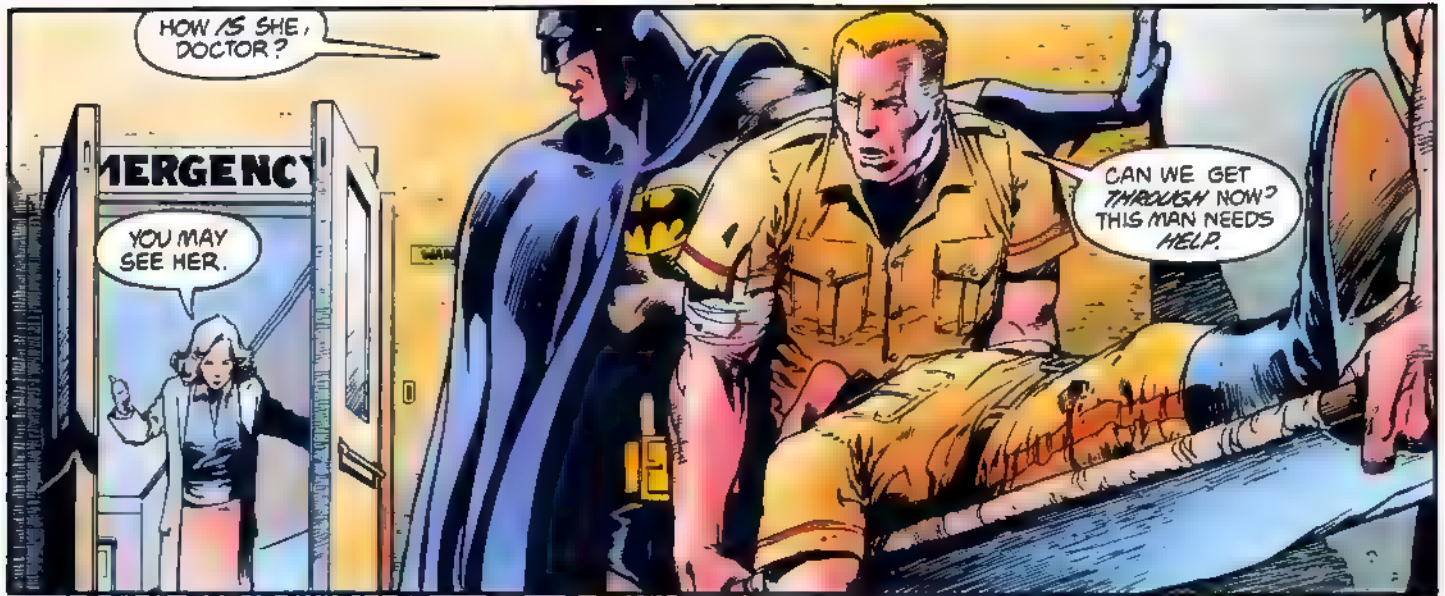
"... WHAT DID YOU SAY, BELOVED? I DO NOT FEEL VERY..."

--VERY WELL...

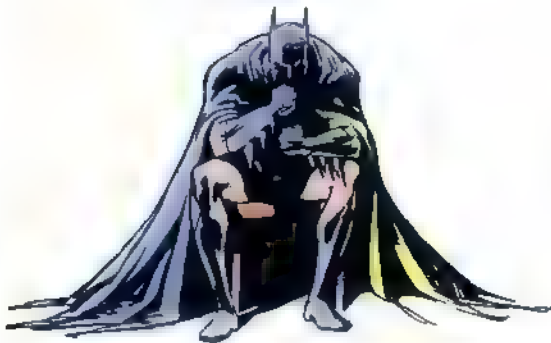


TALIA!





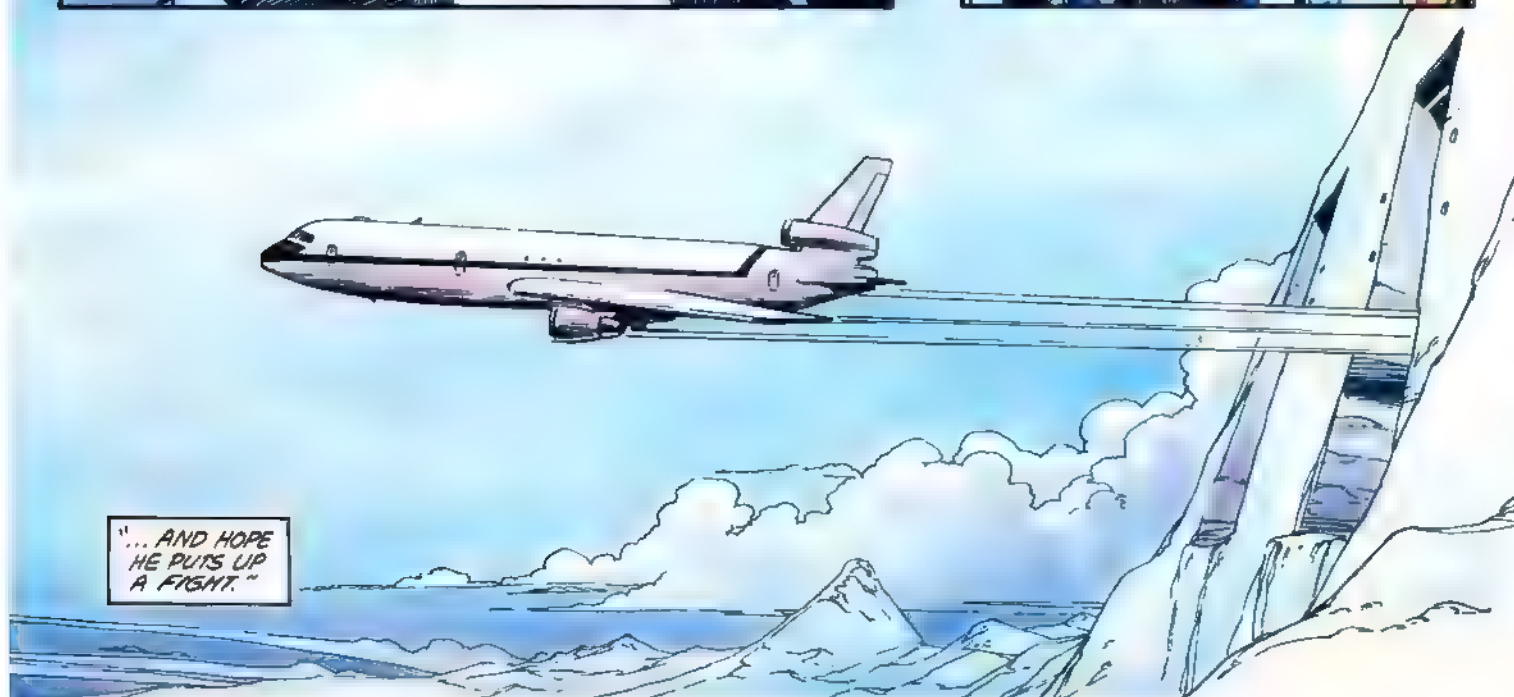
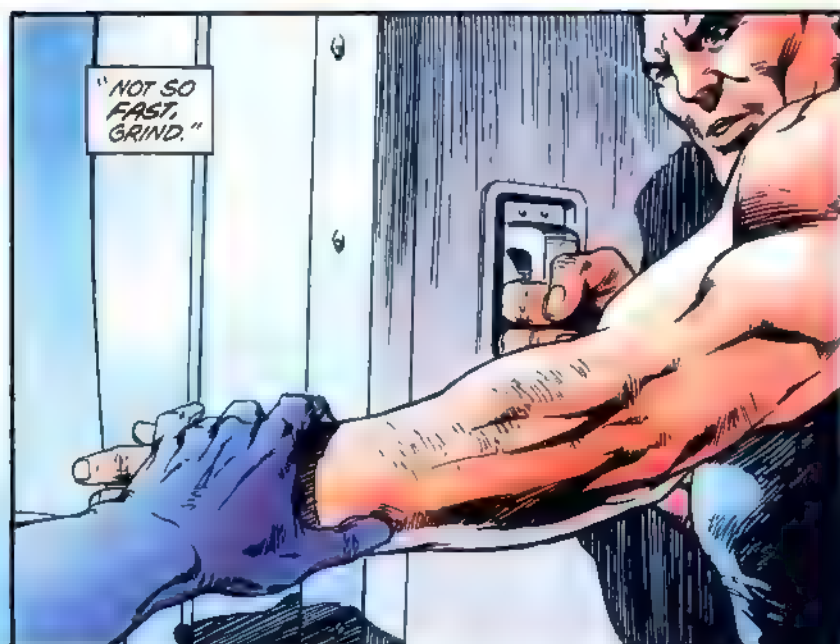
"... ALL THE STRIFE OF THE RAID... ALL THE EXERTION..."



"BELOVED, I AM VERY SORRY."









FINDING HIM WILL BE A TASK, DETECTIVE. A DEVICE OF MY INVENTION MAY BE ABLE TO TRACE THE SATELLITE'S TRANSMISSIONS TO THEIR SOURCE, SO--

UNNECESSARY, RA'S.

OF  
COURSE

AT ONCE,  
MR. GAYIN.



**GROOOM**

"... BUT IF GAVIN THINKS THAT 'LL END IT, HE DOESN'T KNOW ME VERY WELL."

DAMN! THAT MAKES THE JOB THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT...

BE VIGILANT, ALL OF YOU! THE INVADERS MUST BE SOMEWHERE AROUND--

**ZINING  
SPWEEEEE**

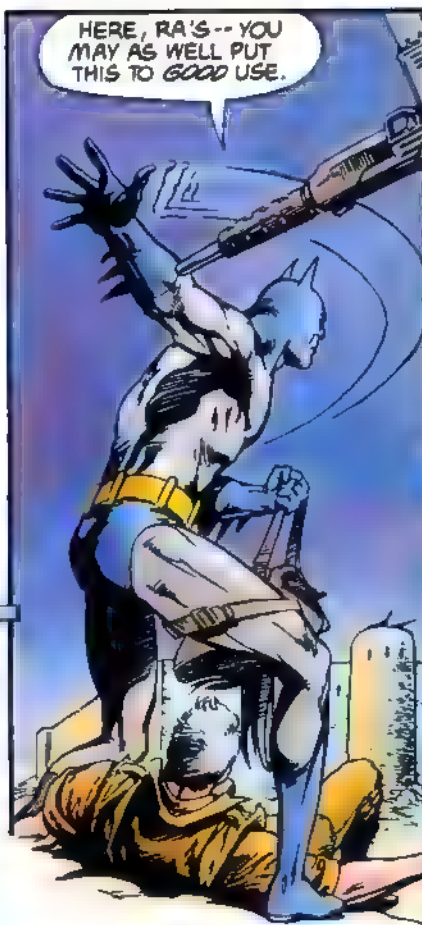
THIS ONE HAS THE BEARING OF A LEADER! IF I SLAY HIM THEY--

WHAT--?





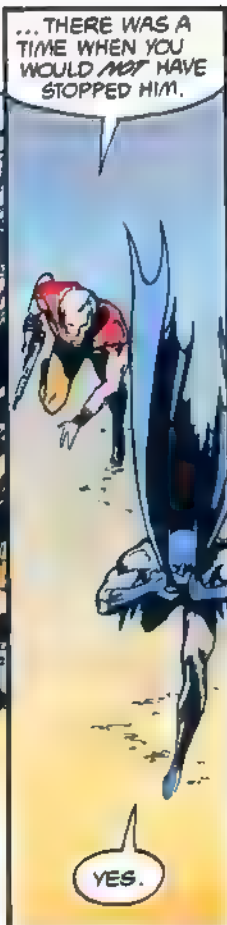
GAAKK--!



HERE, RA'S-- YOU MAY AS WELL PUT THIS TO *GOOD* USE.



MY THANKS, DETECTIVE...



... THERE WAS A TIME WHEN YOU WOULD *NOT* HAVE STOPPED HIM.

YES.

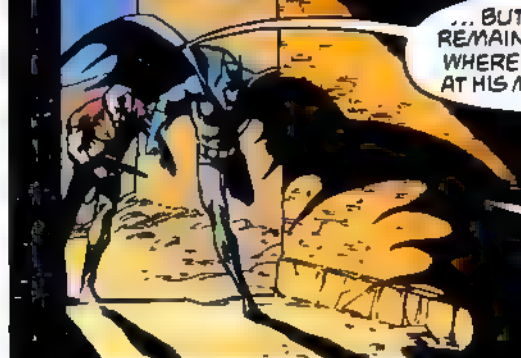


"THE BATTLE GOES WELL, DETECTIVE. MY MEN HAVE SECURED THE PERIMETER..."



... BUT THERE STILL REMAINS THE *INTERIOR*, WHERE GAYIN WILL BE AT HIS MOST *DANGEROUS*

GOOD...







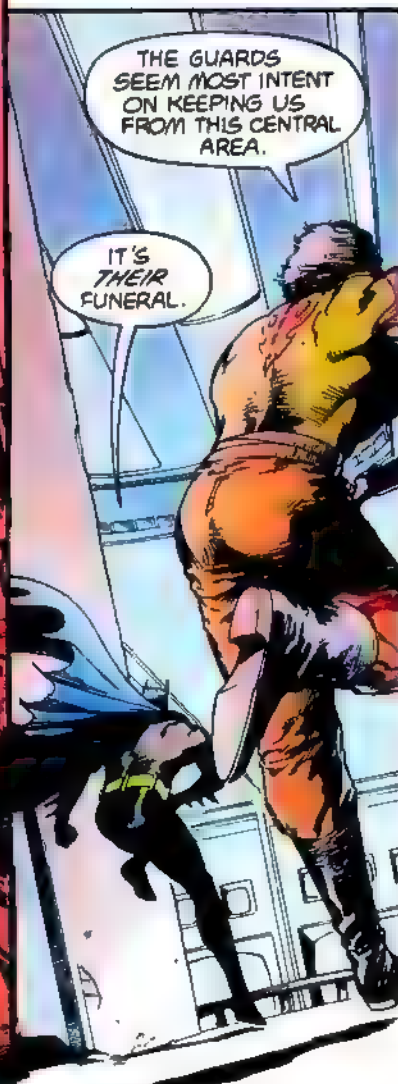
...IT'LL MAKE  
WHAT I HAVE  
TO DO...



...THAT  
MUCH  
EASIER.

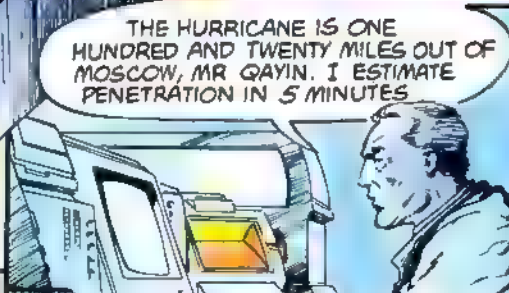


I  
UNDERSTAND



THE GUARDS  
SEEM MOST INTENT  
ON KEEPING US  
FROM THIS CENTRAL  
AREA.

IT'S  
THEIR  
FUNERAL.

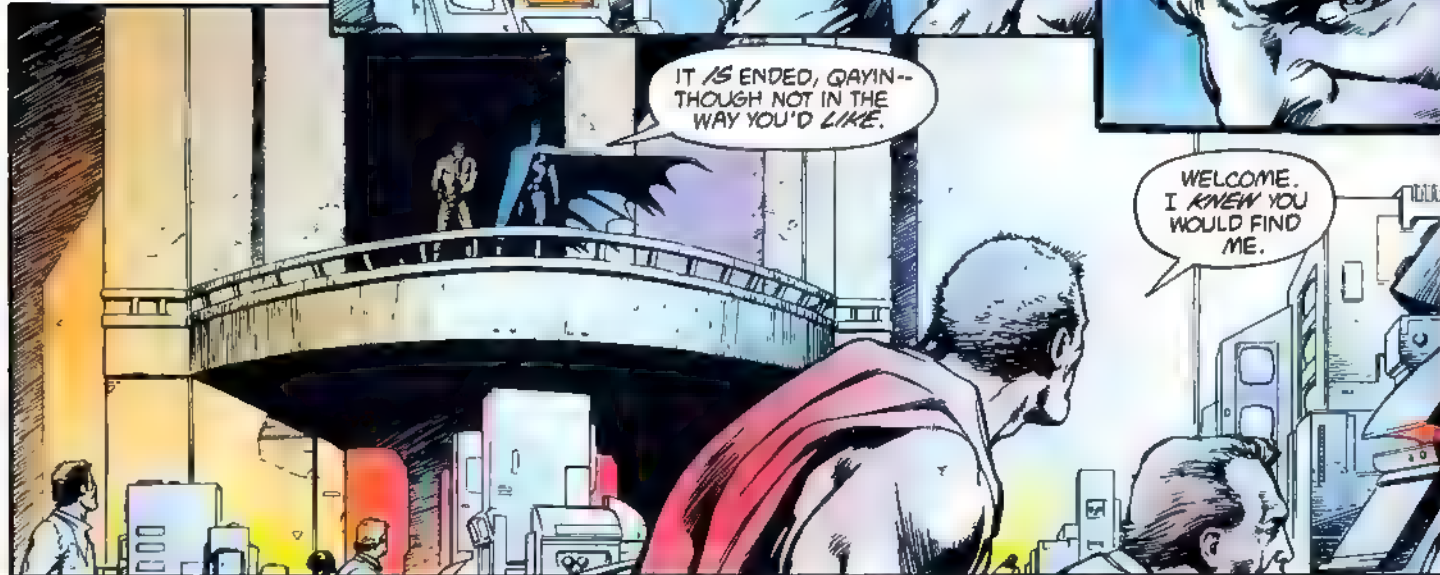


THE HURRICANE IS ONE  
HUNDRED AND TWENTY MILES OUT OF  
MOSCOW, MR. QAYIN. I ESTIMATE  
PENETRATION IN 5 MINUTES.



YOU HAVE SERVED ME  
WELL, HALLAM...

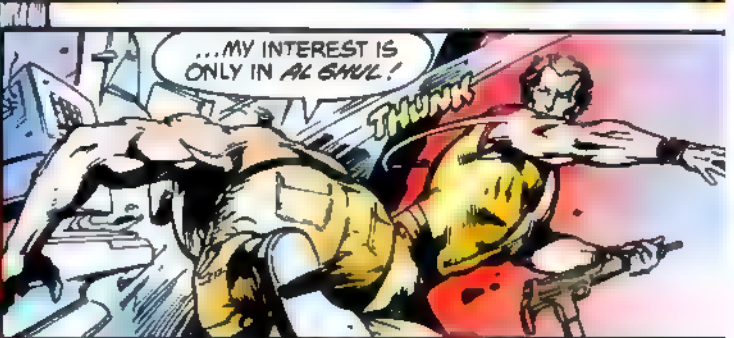
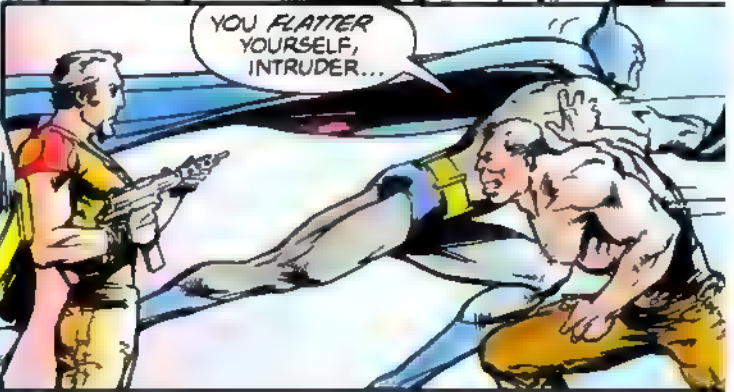
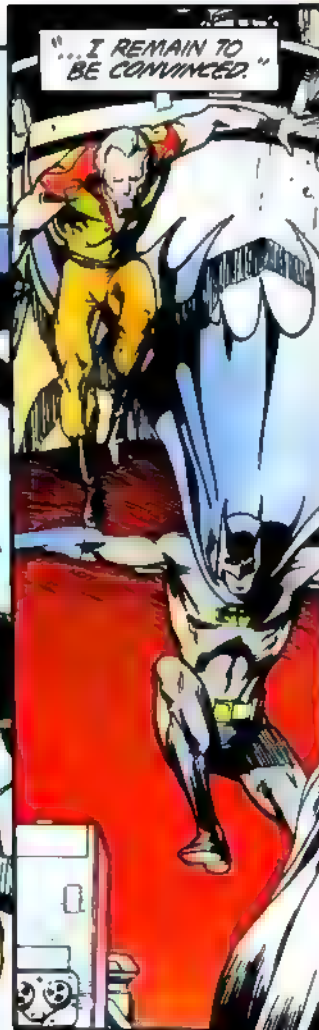
"I SHALL REMEMBER  
YOU...UNTIL THE END."



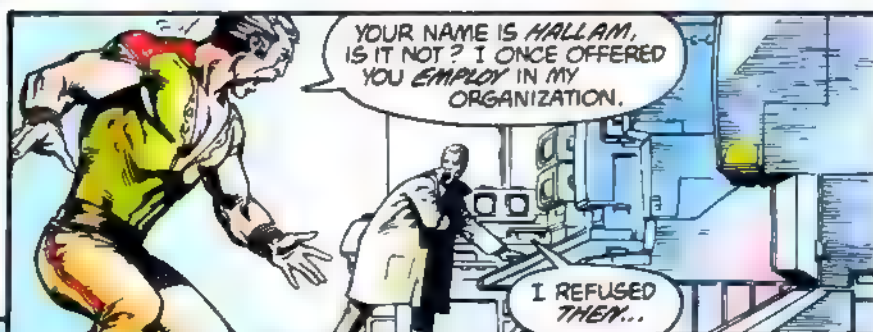
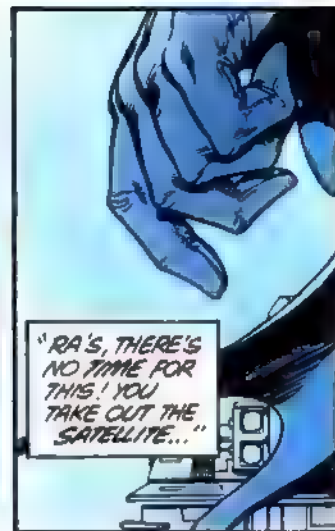
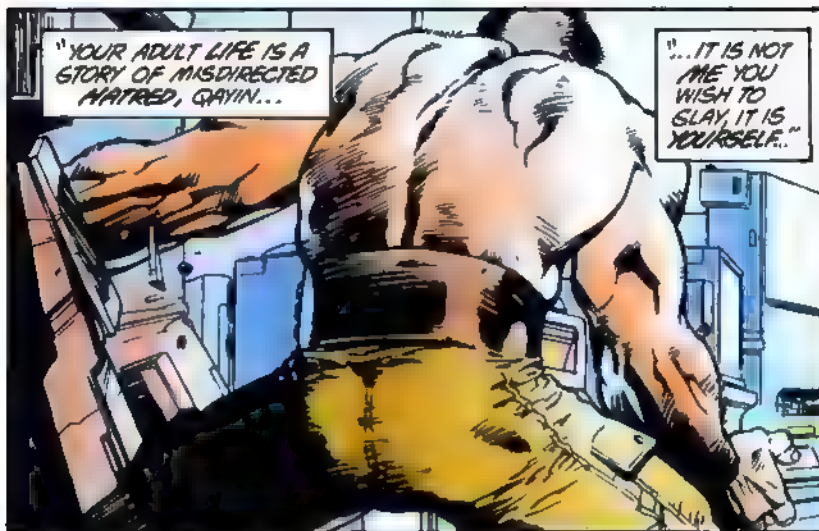
IT IS ENDED, QAYIN--  
THOUGH NOT IN THE  
WAY YOU'D LIKE.

WELCOME.  
I KNEW YOU  
WOULD FIND  
ME.













GENERAL SOMODNIK, READY MISSILE BANK A FOR FIRING...

... OR MY DREAM OF A REPLENISHED WORLD WILL BE FOR AGES LOST.

OUT OF MY WAY, INTERLOPER! IT IS ALGHUL I WANT!

AFTER I'VE SETTLED MY SCORE WITH YOU...

... IF YOU'RE ABLE!

THE COMPUTER IGNORES ALL MY COMMANDS. I'VE NO TIME TO FIND THE PROPER ACCESS CODE...

"YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW MUCH I HATE YOU, GAYIN." NOT ONLY FOR THE PAIN YOU'VE INFLECTED ON OTHERS, THROUGH YOUR TERRORISM..."

... BUT FOR THE PAIN YOU GAVE TO SOMEONE I LOVE-- AND TO ME.

... PERHAPS THE INTERNAL CIRCUITRY WILL YIELD RESULTS!

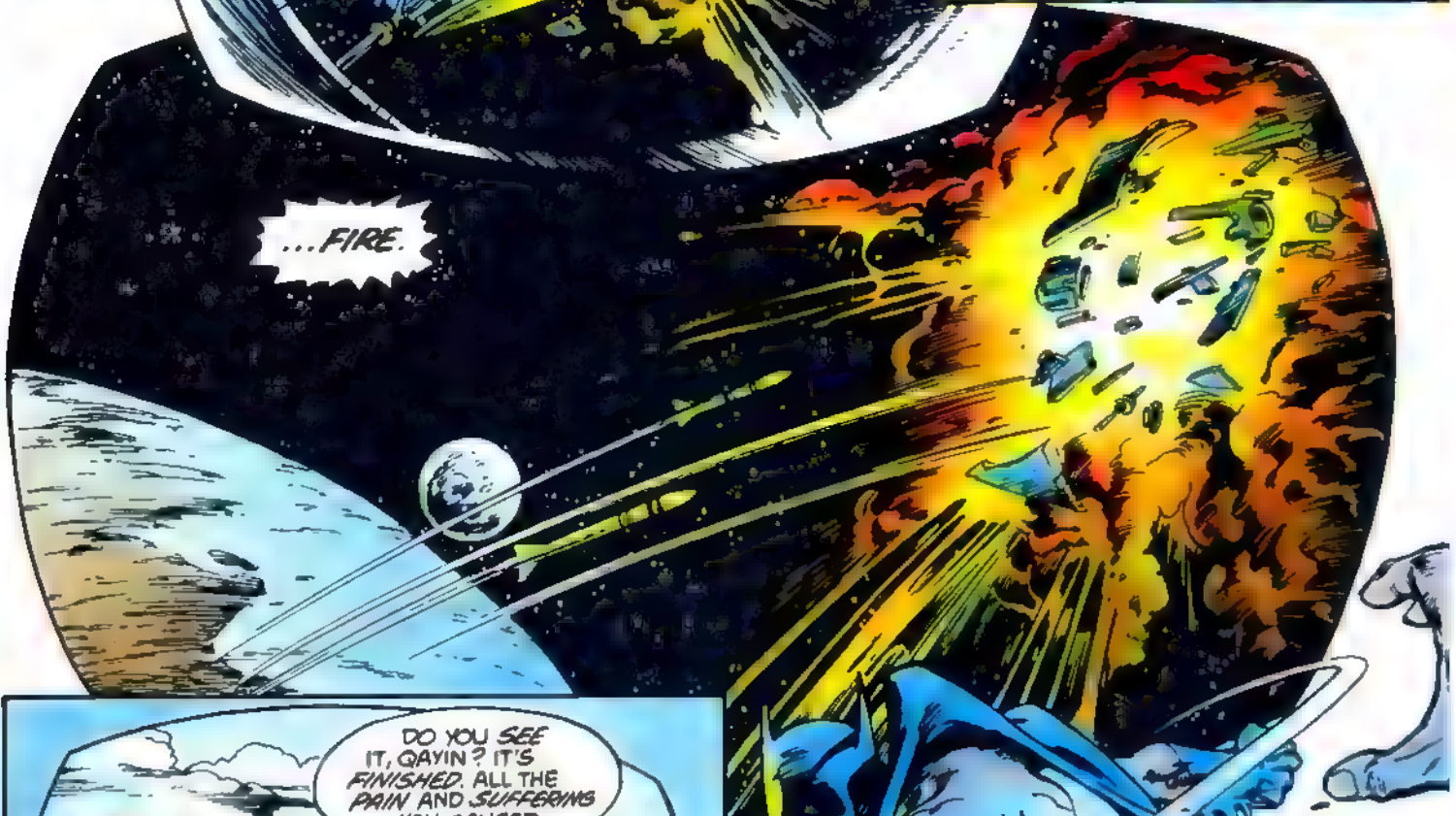
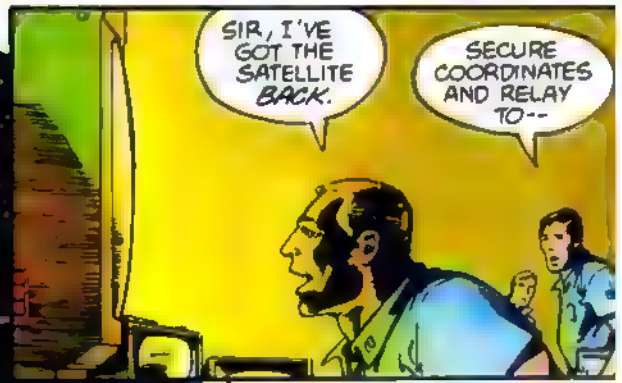
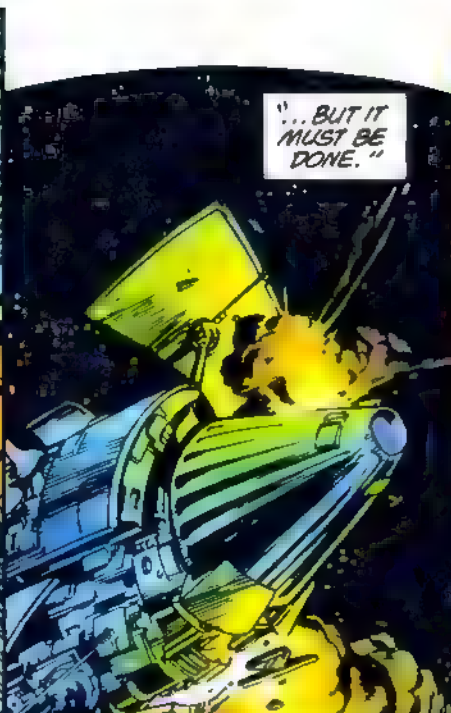
AH, YES...

... THESE WIRES, PLACED IN PROXIMITY, SHOULD OVERLOAD THE RADAR SCREEN...

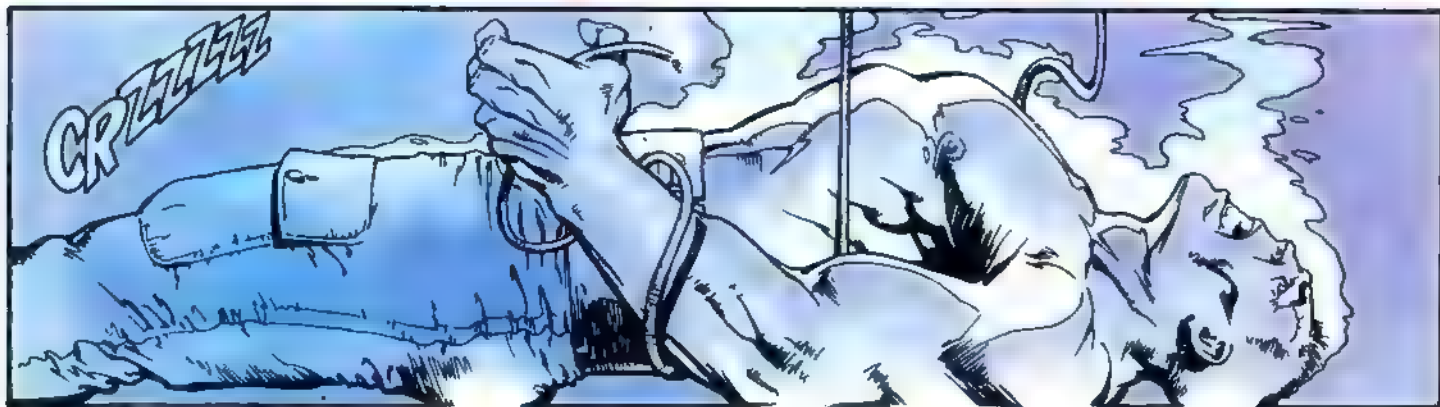
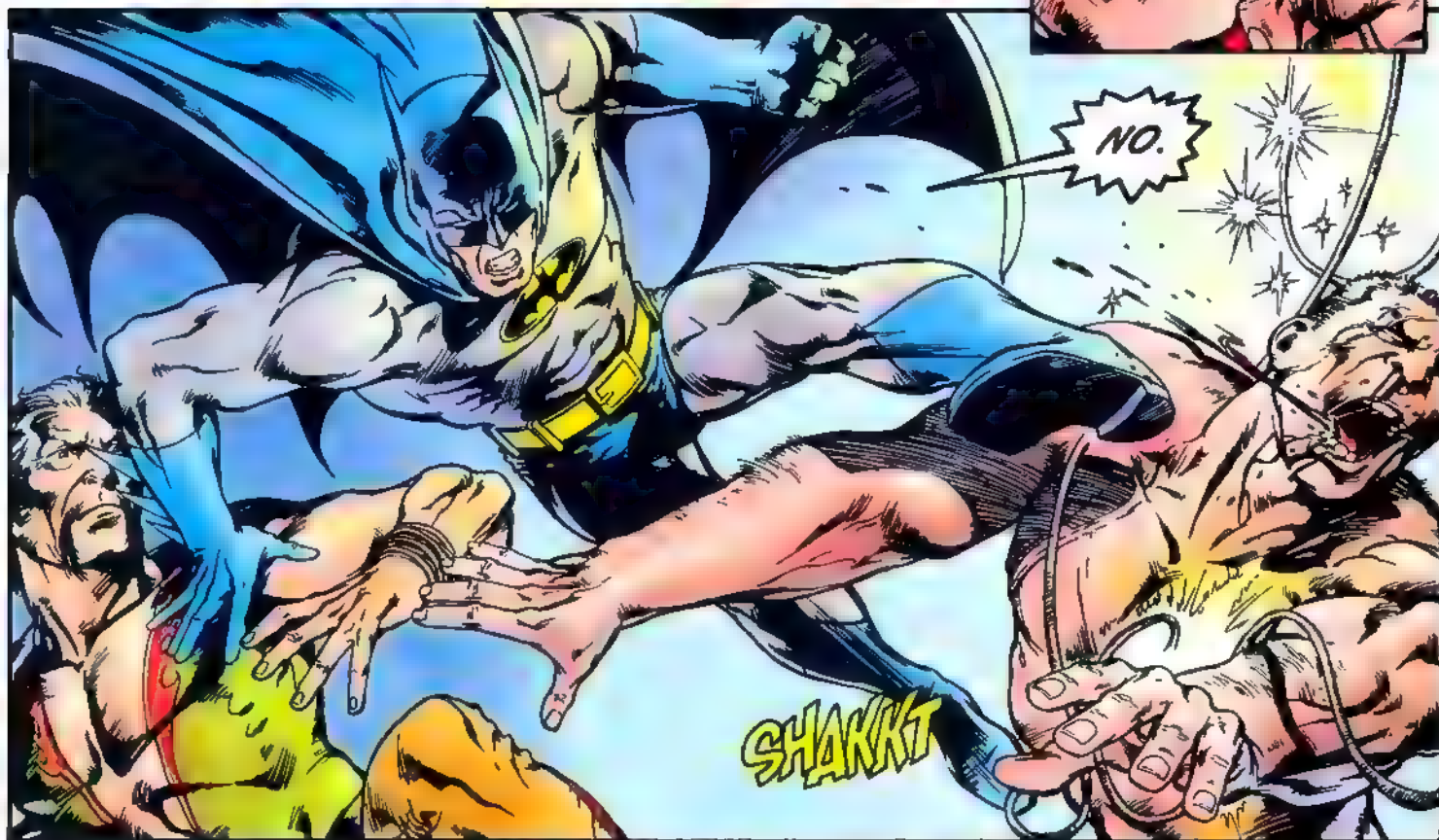
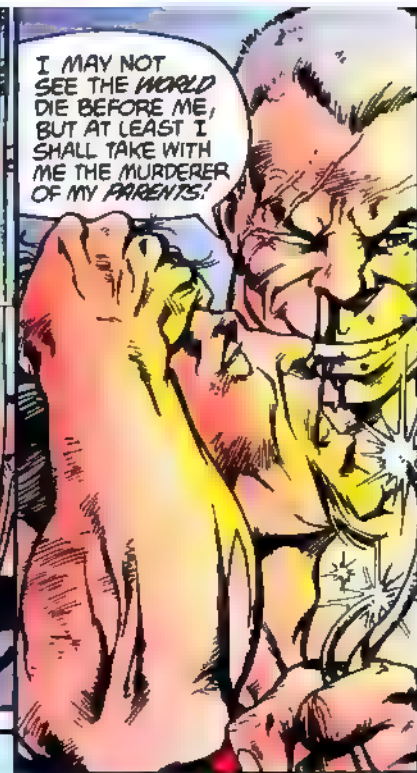
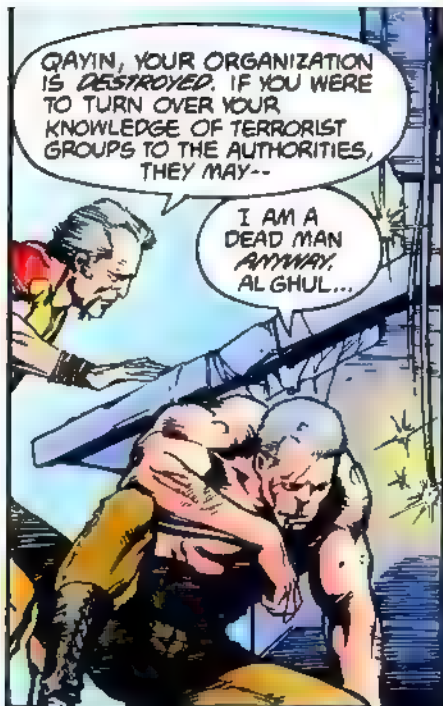
.. BUT... SUCH A WASTE. SUCH A DEVICE WOULD DO MUCH FOR MY CAUSE TO SEE THE PLANET PURIFIED... MADE NEW...

WHOO WHOO WHOO

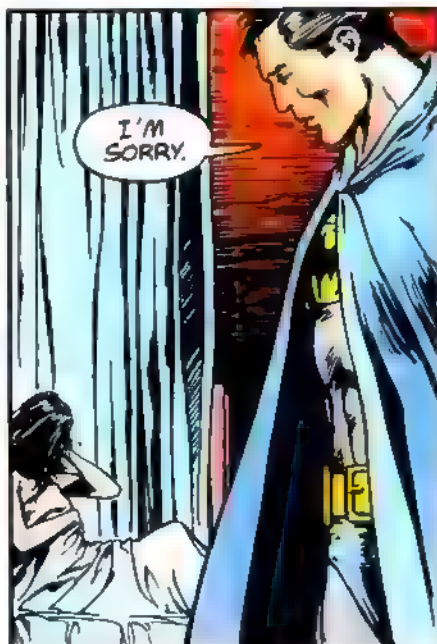
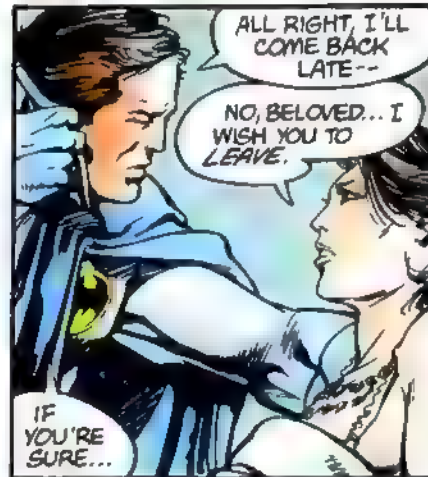
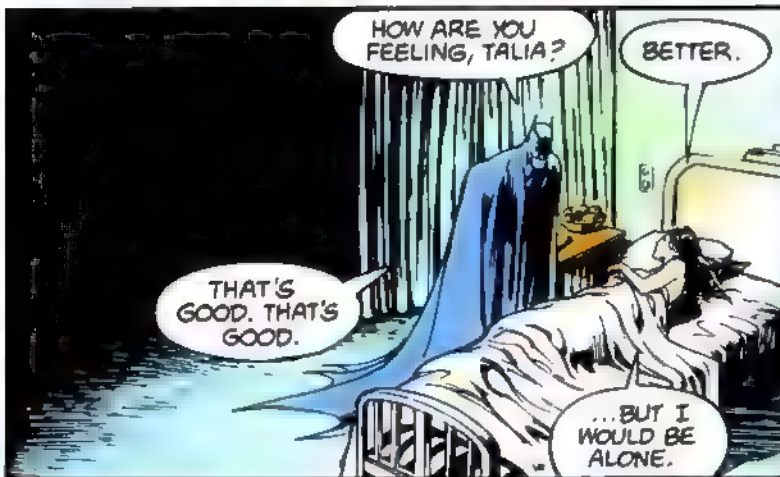
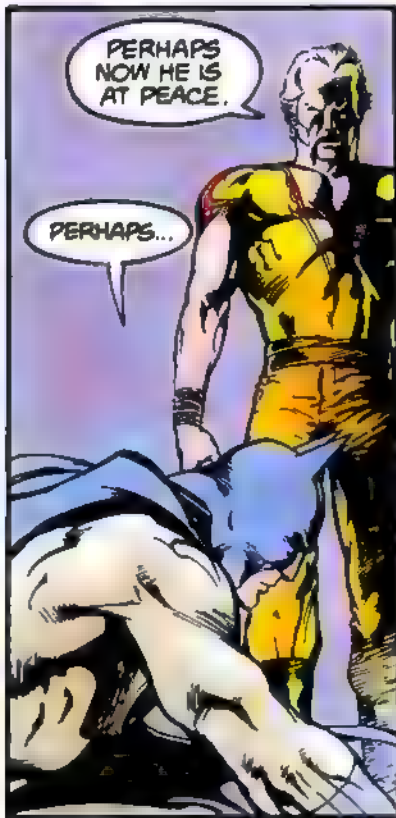








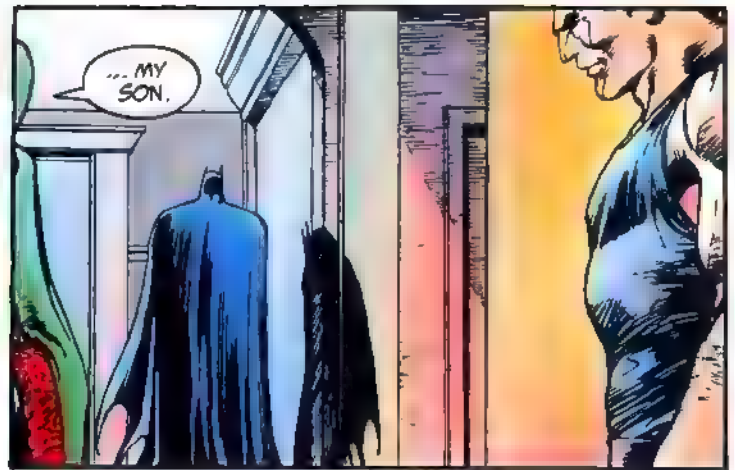




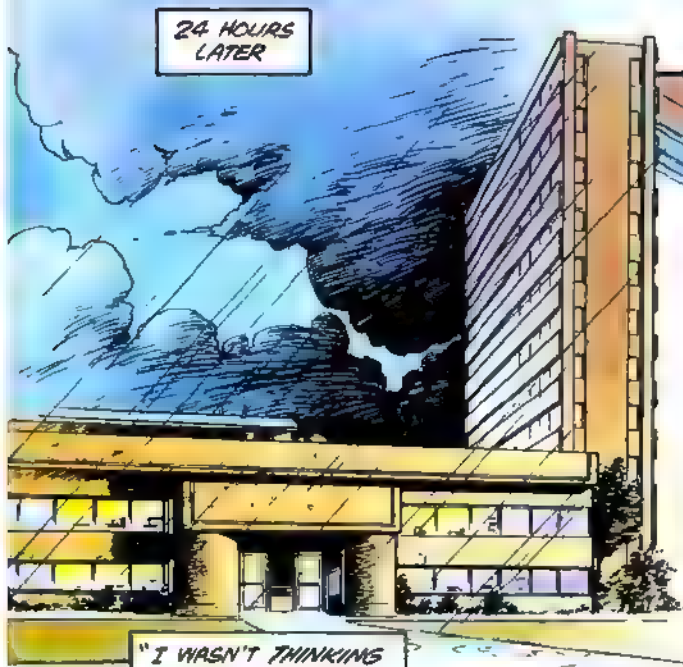




I, TOO, AM SORRY...



... MY SON.

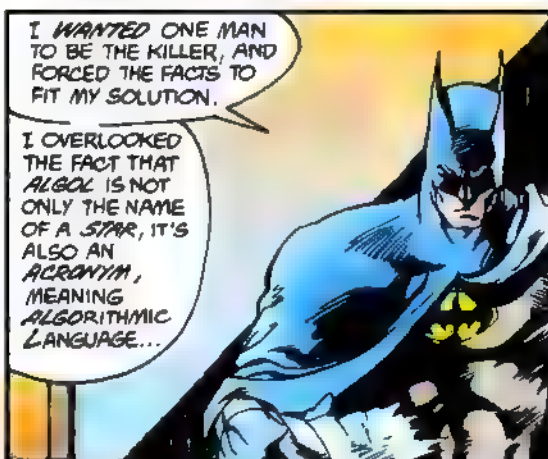


24 HOURS LATER

"... I THOUGHT I KNEW WHO HARRIS BLAINE MEANT BY HIS DYING MESSAGE, ALGOL, BUT I WAS WRONG."



"I WASN'T THINKING DURING OUR EARLIER ENCOUNTER..."

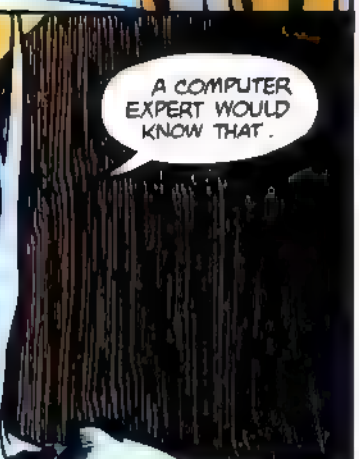


I WANTED ONE MAN TO BE THE KILLER, AND FORCED THE FACTS TO FIT MY SOLUTION.

I OVERLOOKED THE FACT THAT ALGOL IS NOT ONLY THE NAME OF A STAR, IT'S ALSO AN ACRONYM, MEANING ALGORITHMIC LANGUAGE...



... A LANGUAGE USED IN PROGRAMMING A COMPUTER



A COMPUTER EXPERT WOULD KNOW THAT.



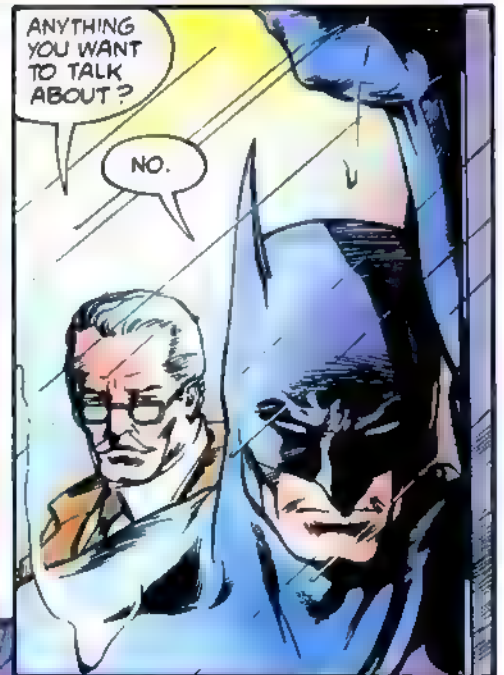
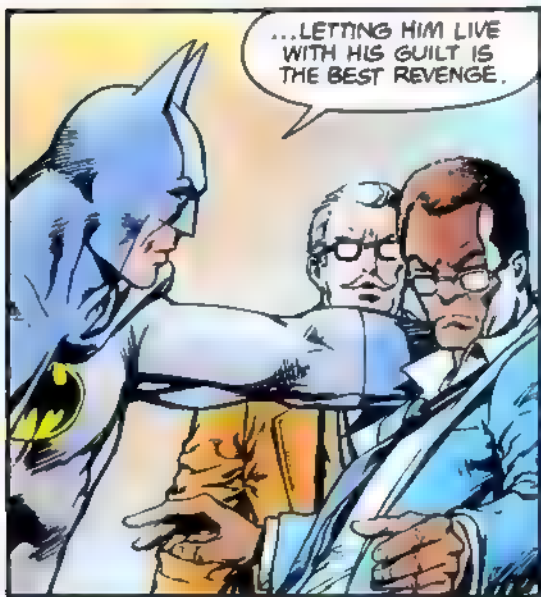
"...WOULDN'T HE, DR. PEARSON?"

AT LAST IT'S OVER I'M GLAD.

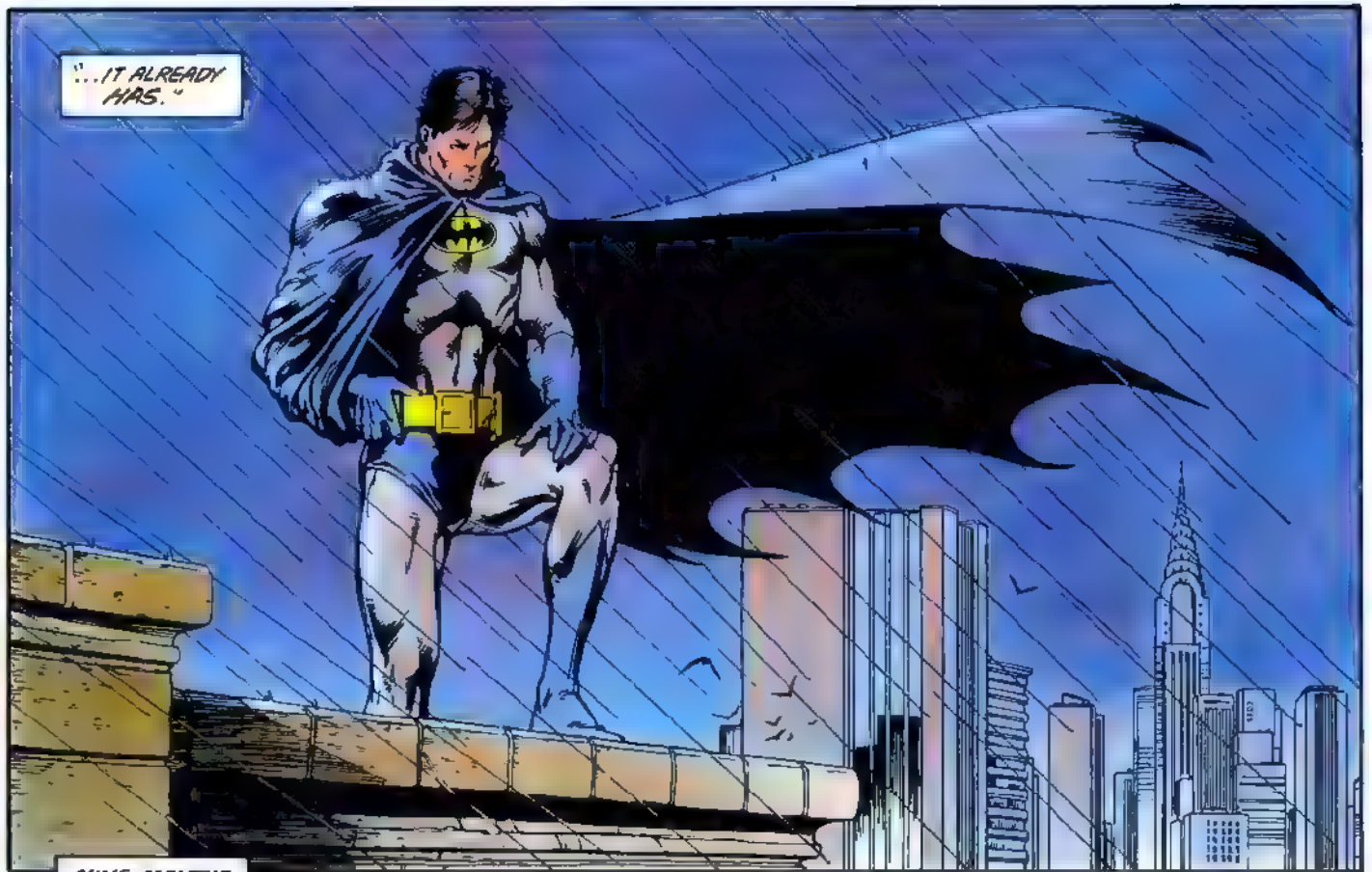
I NEEDED MONEY... ALWAYS HAVE. I SOLD COPIES OF HARRIS' PLANS TO GAYN. THEY SAID NO ONE WOULD EVER KNOW.

BUT HARRIS KNEW. I TOLD MYSELF I HAD TO DO IT. I DIDN'T.









"...IT ALREADY HAS."

NINE MONTHS LATER



"WELL, HERE WE ARE..."



"...ISN'T HE PRECIOUS? WE JUST FOUND HIM ON OUR DOORSTEP, ONE MORNING."

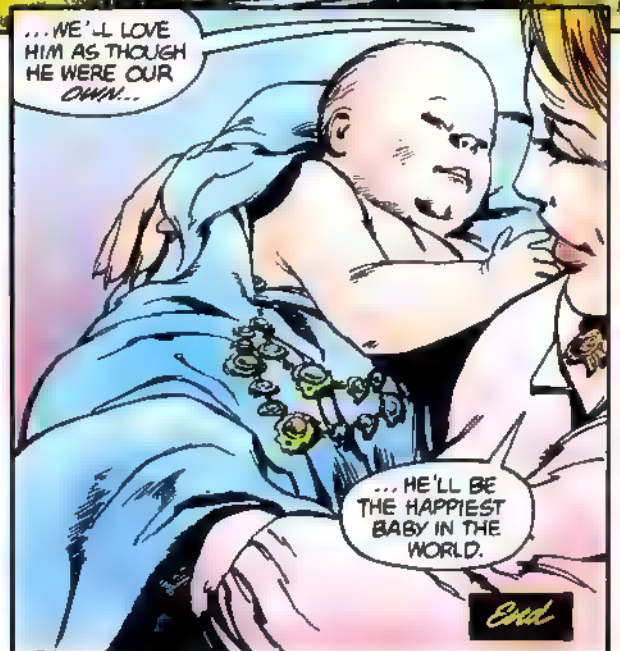
HE'S PERFECT.



HOW COULD ANYONE GIVE A BABY LIKE THIS UP?

I DON'T KNOW, HONEY, BUT IT'S A REAL BLESSING FOR US.

YES...



...WE'LL LOVE HIM AS THOUGH HE WERE OUR OWN...

...HE'LL BE THE HAPPIEST BABY IN THE WORLD.

End



# PART FOUR

## THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME







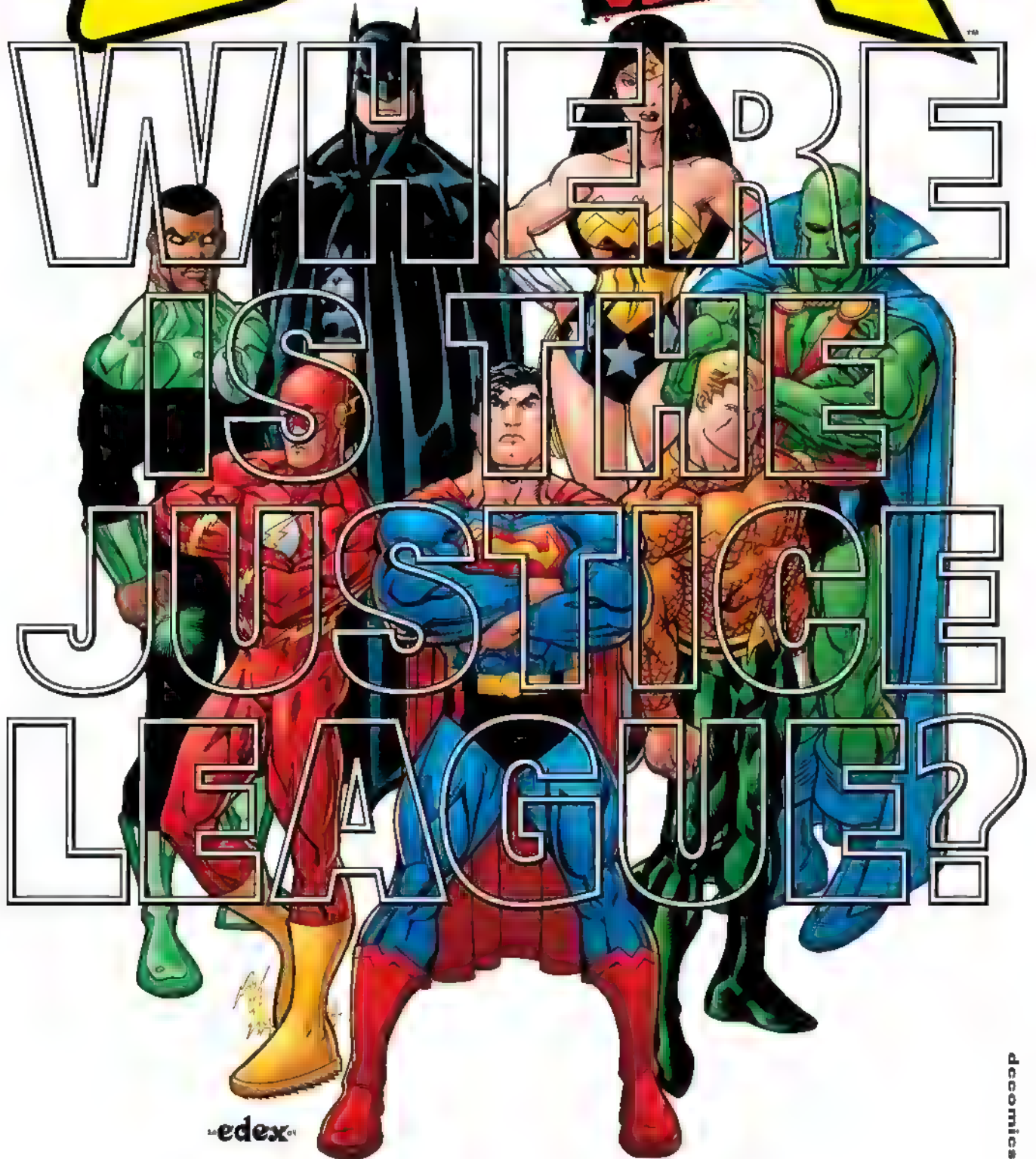
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GRANT  
MORRISON  
ED  
McGUINNESS  
DEXTER  
VINES

1  
JAN 05  
APPROVED BY THE  
COMICS CODE  
AUTHORITY

# JLA

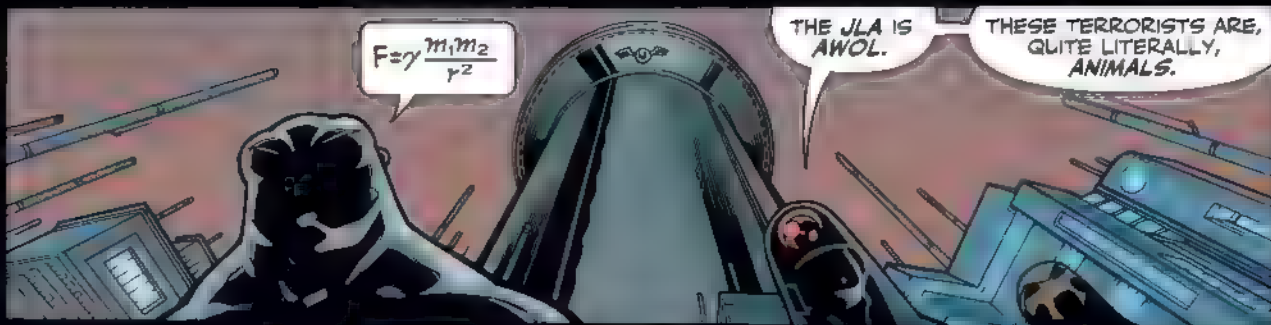
CLASSIFIED



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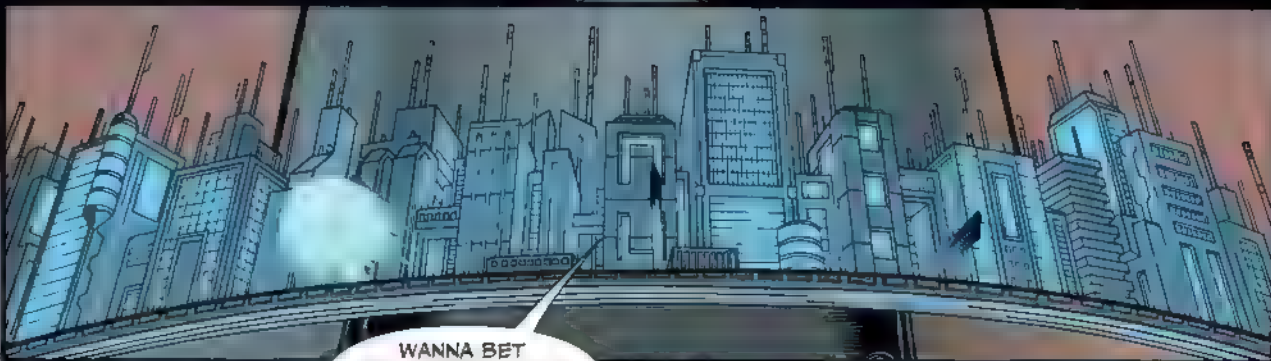




$$F = \gamma \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

THE JLA IS  
AWOL.

THESE TERRORISTS ARE,  
QUITE LITERALLY,  
ANIMALS.



WANNA BET  
THE INTERNATIONAL  
ULTRAMARINE CORPS  
CAN WRAP THIS LITTLE  
INSURRECTION UP  
IN...WHAT?

LET'S  
GIVE IT TEN  
MINUTES?

WHO NEEDS  
THE JUSTICE  
LEAGUE?

# ISLAND OF THE MIGHTY

GRANT MORRISON WRITER ED MCGUINNESS PENCILLER DEXTER VINES INKER  
DAVE MCCAG COLORIST PHIL BALSAMAN LETTERER MICHAEL SIGLAN ASSISTANT EDITOR MIKE CARL NEDITOR



SHOCK AND  
AWE, GENTLE-  
MEN.



AFRICA: NOW

WARMAKER  
ONE TO  
KNIGHT!

YOU ARE  
CLEAR TO GO,  
KNIGHT!

GORAIKO!

...THERE'S  
NO POINT IN ASKING,  
YOU'LL GET NO  
REPLY...

DEATH  
FROM THE  
SKIES.

YOU  
AND JACK  
ARE IN CHARGE  
OF GETTING THE  
HOSTAGES OUT  
OF THERE!

RIGHTO,  
SCOTTIE.





...AN' I CAN  
KILL YEZ ALL IN A  
THOUSAND MORE  
STUPID, UNDIGNIFIED  
WAYS!

DON'T  
TRY IT ON  
WITH OUL JACK  
O' LANTERN!

So  
Goraiko's  
wrath

As a flower  
opens to the  
sun

HUP!

NOW  
THEN.

WHERE  
ARE  
THESE...

...  
HOSTAGES  
...?







...PRESIDENTIAL SUITE!

WARMAKER  
DUST-CAMS  
DEPLOYED!

KNIGHT!

CHECK.



KNIGHT TO  
SQUIRE!

BERYL, I'M  
CHASING WARMAKER'S  
VAPOR TRAIL INTO THE  
PALACE NOW.



MINI-  
SPITFIRES ARE ON  
THEIR MERRY WAY TO  
GET A CLOSER LOOK  
AT THE ENEMY.



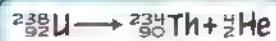
HE'S A  
BIGGUN,  
EY?

GIVE US HALF  
A MO', WE'LL HAVE  
HIM MATCHED UP IN THE  
VILLAIN DATABASE,  
CYRIL.

GORAIKO!  
HOW'S YOUR  
END, MATE?



Crushed like  
autumn leaves  
in my hands



The bones of  
bad monkeys

FORGET  
THE DATABASE,  
BERYL.

LOOKING  
FOR DEMOCRATIC  
PRESIDENT  
M'BUZI?

HE'S NOT  
~~HERE~~  
ANYMORE.

WHY  
ME?

THERE'S  
NO MISTAKING  
THIS ONE.





GRODD.

IT'S  
GRODD!

SUPER-  
GORILLA  
GRODD!

GET OUT  
OF THERE,  
CYRIL!

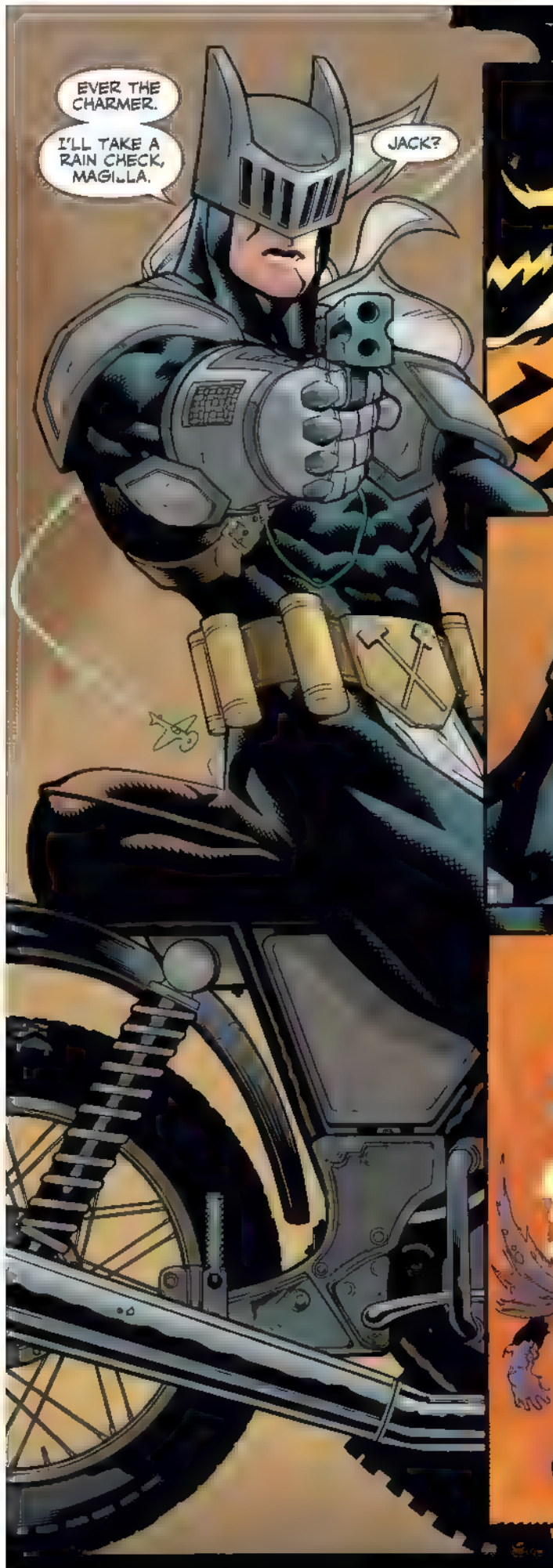
AND I SUPPOSE  
YOU'RE WONDERING  
WHAT HAPPENED TO  
THE HOSTAGES...

I ATE  
THEM ALL!

AAAUURRRR

AND NOW I'M  
GOING TO EAT  
YOU!





EVER THE  
CHARMER.

I'LL TAKE A  
RAIN CHECK,  
MAGILLA.

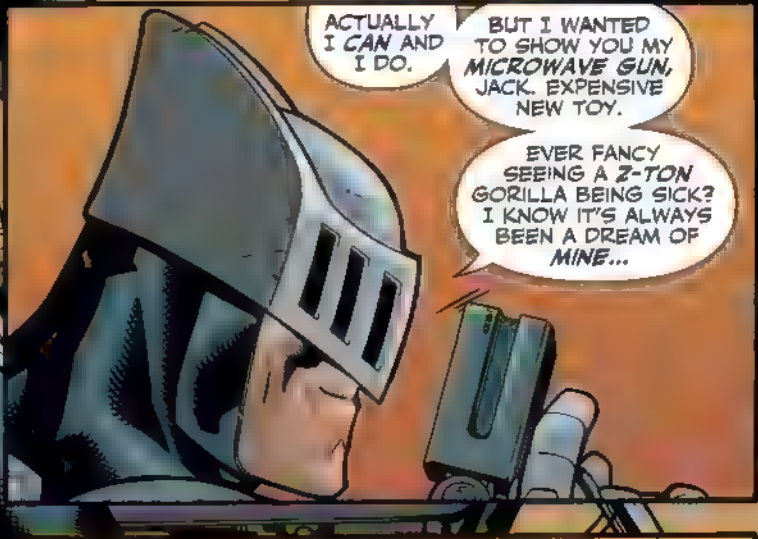
JACK?



I'VE ONLY  
THE THREE RIBS LEFT,  
CYRIL! THE HAIRY  
BUGGER'S ON P.C.P.  
OR SOMETHIN'...

PUT ONE  
OF US OUT OF  
OUR MISERY, FOR  
CRYING OUT  
LOLD!

YOU CAN'T  
HATE ME THIS  
MUCH!



ACTUALLY  
I CAN AND  
I DO.

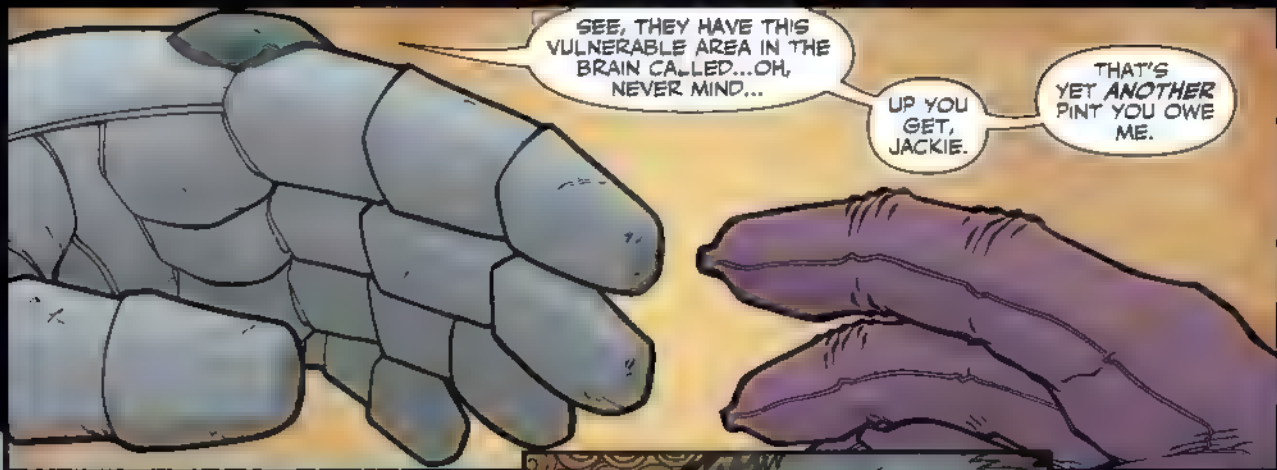
BUT I WANTED  
TO SHOW YOU MY  
MICROWAVE GUN,  
JACK. EXPENSIVE  
NEW TOY.

EVER FANCY  
SEEING A 2-TON  
GORILLA BEING SICK?  
I KNOW IT'S ALWAYS  
BEEN A DREAM OF  
MINE...



RRAUUUUUU





SEE, THEY HAVE THIS  
VULNERABLE AREA IN THE  
BRAIN CALLED...OH,  
NEVER MIND...

UP YOU  
GET,  
JACKIE.

THAT'S  
YET *ANOTHER*  
PINT YOU OWE  
ME.

**DIE!**

**ALL!**

**SCREAM!**

**TEAR!**

**MEN!**

**DIE!**



**RRRRRUN,  
KU-KUH KKK  
K-COWARDS!**

**THIS! IS ONLY!  
THE BEGINNING!  
OF MY RAPE OF  
NATIONS!**

AH, WHAT A  
WONDERFUL SENSE  
OF HUMOR!

LIFE-  
AFFIRMING,  
SO HE IS...



WE'LL TEAR YOU FROM YOUR BEDS AND BEHEAD YOU ALL ON YOUR PERFECT LAWNS!

RAZE YOUR CITIES!

EAT YOUR CHILDREN!

I HOPE YOU BLOODY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST, CYRIL...

THIS ENT SOME SMALL FRY LIKE THAT "GUY, THE GORILLA GANGSTER" YOU AND YOUR DAD LOCKED UP BACK IN THE DAY.

GROOD RANKS NUMBER THREE ON THE LATEST "GLOBAL MOST WANTED" LIST: NO LESS THAN 18 SERIOUS ATTEMPTS TO "EXTERMINATE ALL TRACES OF HUMAN EXISTENCE"...

WHAT WOULD YOU BOYS DO WITHOUT ME?

YOU'LL HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR HIS MIND-CONTROL POWERS AN' ALL...

I'M TOO STUBBORN FOR THAT, AND JACK'S TOO THICK.

WE'RE WELL OUT OF IT, BERYL.

NOW, WOULD SOMEONE LIKE TO CATCH US BEFORE WE GO "SPLAT"?!

IS THE MASTER IN THE HOUSE?

TAK TAPPITAK  
TAK TAK TAPPI



LISTEN  
UP!

THIS IS  
THE **BRAINS** OF  
THE OPERATION; YOUR  
EVER LUVVIN' **GLOB** IN  
THE RAIN ROOM.

I'M INTERFACED  
UP TO MY ASS WITH THE  
NEW **GELATINE** SOFTWARE  
HERE AND PICKING UP SOME  
WEIRD **COSMIC PARTICLE**  
EMISSIONS FROM THE  
PALACE.

COSMIC IS  
MY TERRITORY,  
DAN...

SOON AS I  
FINISH A LITTLE  
**EDITING**  
HERE.

YOU'RE  
FLUTTERING LIKE  
AN **ETON SCARF**,  
JACK.

NEED A  
SHOULDER TO  
CRY ON ABOUT YOUR  
STRUGGLE WITH  
ANOREXIA?

I COULD CRUSH  
YER **WINDPIPE** FROM  
THIS POSITION, YE  
BIG TOOL...

REWRITE.

CUT.

PASTE.

EDIT  
COMPLETE.

"AND THE  
BIKE, WITH BOTH ITS  
PASSENGERS, WEIGHED  
LESS THAN A SOAP  
BUBBLE FOR THE NEXT  
33 SECONDS."

LONG ENOUGH  
TO GET THESE  
WHINING GIRLS ON  
THE GROUND...

WARMAKER?

WE SENDING  
THE BIG GUNS IN TO  
FINISH GRODD?

TAKKA TAK TAPPI TAKKTAK



UNNNHH!

止

GORAIKO  
GOT HIM.

SO HE  
FLATTENED THIS  
WHOLE CITY JUST  
TO BUILD HIS OWN  
MONKEY EMPIRE IN  
THE RUINS?

THERE MUST  
BE MORE TO  
THIS...

CAREFUL,  
SCOTT...

DAN SAYS  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
UNUSUAL  
HERE.



HANG ON A  
MINUTE...

THERE'S  
SOMETHING RIGHT  
FUNNY ABOUT  
THIS.

WE'RE  
GETTING A JLA  
CLASSIFIED MATCH  
ON THOSE EMISSIONS:  
"NEBULA MAN"  
FILES.

I DON'T  
LIKE THIS.

SQUIRE,  
WHAT?...WE'RE  
LOSING YOU...

JOHN, I ADVISE  
YOU NOT TO USE  
YOUR QUANTUM  
KEYBOARD...

I HAVE TO  
INVESTIGATE...

TAPPI  
TAKK TAK

/Auummh!

AS IF I  
WOULD BUILD  
MY EMPIRE  
HERE IN THE  
DIRT!

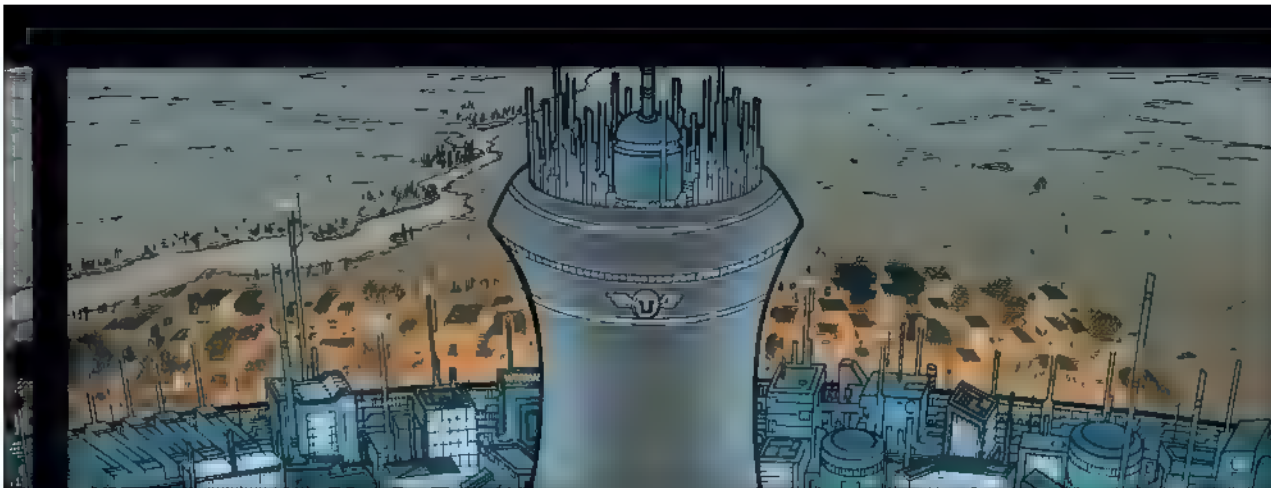
I BURNED  
KINSHASA SO THAT  
ITS LIGHT WOULD  
ATTRACT YOUR SHINING  
CITY LIKE A MOTH  
TO A FLAME ..

A WHOLE CITY,  
WRECKED TO PROVIDE  
BAIT...TO ATTRACT  
US...

THIS  
WHOLE THING'S  
A TRAP.

IT'S...IT'S  
INTELLIGENT...





WHAT IN THE NAME OF--?!

DID SOMEBODY FORGET TO FEED THE METER?

MASSIVE E.M.P. DETONATION! TOOK OUT MY VISOR GRAPHICS.

KNIGHT TO SQUIRE!

SUPERBIA!

SUPERBIA'S GOING DOWN!

GORAIKO'S HEART JUST SKIPPED AND EMITTED AN ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE!

ALL POWER IS OUT!

UH-OH.





I SAW THIS  
THING, RIGHT?  
A CLBE OF  
STARS...

THEY'LL ALL  
BE *SLEEPING*  
...OLYMPIAN,  
VIXEN...OH MY  
GOD...

WE THOUGHT  
THIS WAS GOING  
TO BE *EASY*.

IN AND  
OUT.

GLOB!  
4-DEE!

ANYBODY!

A MANIFOLD!!!!  
ABSORBING ME  
FLAT!!!FLAT!!!!

!!!!!!I AM GONE  
AND IT GROWS IN  
ME A SEED!!!!

INFORMATION!!!  
SENT BACKWARDS  
THROUGH TIME

BLOODY  
'ELL!

BLOODY  
'ELL!



NOVEMBER 18.  
1:15 AM.

SAVAGERY IS  
CROWNED KING.

CIVILIZATION'S  
DEFENDERS FALL.





**THE  
BATMAN.**

1:25 AM

MASTER  
BRUCE

THE...  
AH... "HOT  
LINE"

HOW DID  
YOU FIND THIS  
NUMBER?

I GAVE  
IT TO...  
WHO?

YOU  
UNDERSTAND  
THAT I DON'T  
OFFICIALLY  
EXIST?

...GRODD?

NO...  
THAT WON'T  
HAPPEN.

I PROMISE.

STAY  
RIGHT WHERE  
YOU ARE.






DO YOU REMEMBER THE EARL OF WORDENSHIRE, ALFRED?

THE "ENGLISH BATMAN?" HIS SON, CYRIL, REPLACED HIM WHEN THE KNIGHT WAS MURDERED BY HIS ARCH-ENEMY, SPRINGHEELED JACK, THE EVIL BLACK SHEEP OF THE ROYAL FAMILY?

DON'T YOU KEEP UP WITH THIS STUFF?

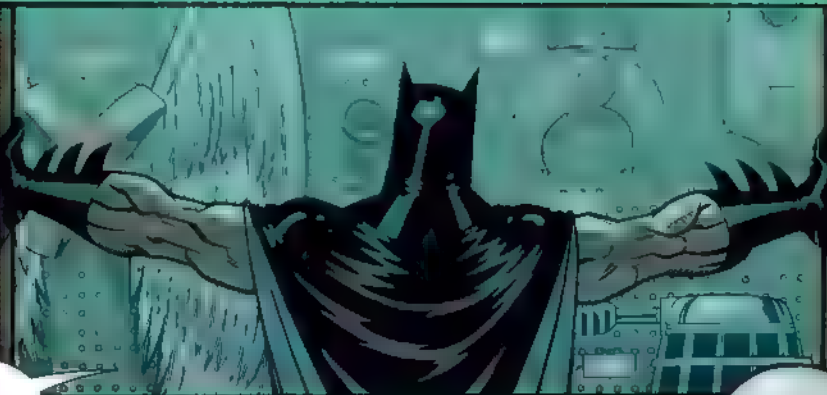
I PREFER ONLINE SHOPPING, SIR.

HAVING SAID THAT, I DO STILL SEND CHRISTMAS CARDS TO THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE CLUB OF HEROES, INCLUDING YOUNG SIR CYRIL.



I JUST SPOKE TO HIS PARTNER, THE NEW SQUIRE...

I'M OPENING THE SCI-FI CLOSET, ALFRED. DON'T TELL MY FRIENDS IN THE G.C.P.D. ABOUT THIS.



ROBIN AND THE OTHERS CAN WATCH GOTHAM FOR ME TONIGHT.

I HAVE A FEELING THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET STRANGE.

OH, DEAR.

I TAKE IT YOUR FLAMBOYANT ALLIES IN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE ARE... INDISPOSED?



THEY GOT LOST SAVING SOMEBODY ELSE'S UNIVERSE.

TYPICAL.

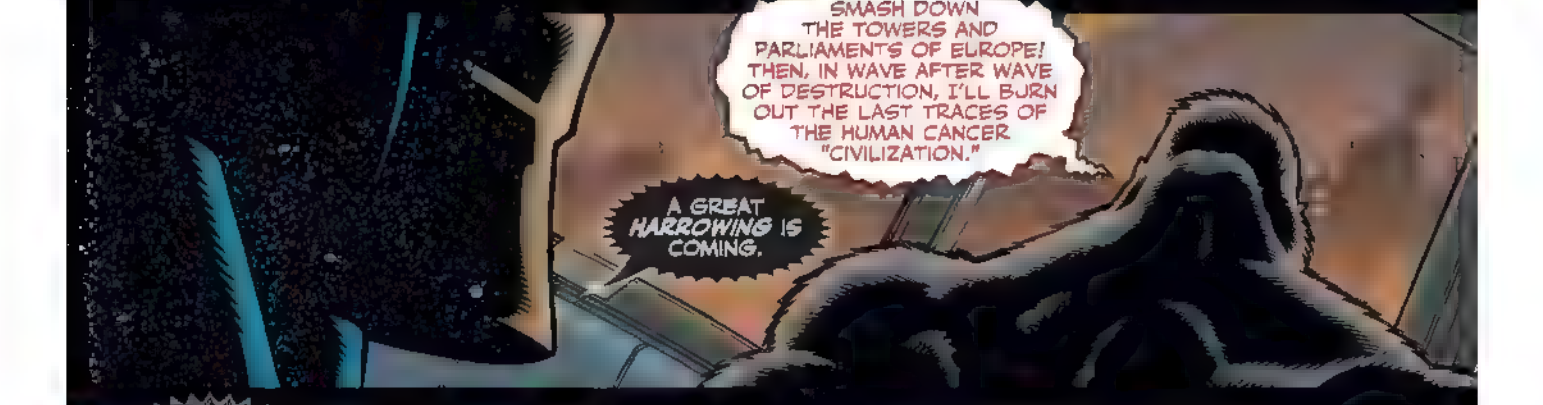
DID MY FLYING SAUCER ARRIVE FROM THE FACTORY?





... WE'LL  
BE AIRBORNE  
AGAIN WITHIN  
HOURS.

THEN I'LL  
SEND MY SUPERMEN  
OUT ACROSS THE WORLD,  
LIKE GREAT HAMMERS  
OF WRATH.



SMASH DOWN  
THE TOWERS AND  
PARLIAMENTS OF EUROPE!  
THEN, IN WAVE AFTER WAVE  
OF DESTRUCTION, I'LL BURN  
OUT THE LAST TRACES OF  
THE HUMAN CANCER  
"CIVILIZATION."


A GREAT  
HARROWING IS  
COMING.



LOOK,  
I HAVE EX-  
PENDED TO FILL  
THIS HUMAN'S  
SHAPE.

WHAT  
ARE YOU, NEH-  
BUH-LOH?

NOT  
THAT I'M  
COMPLAINING  
BUT...



MY ORIGINAL  
COUNTRY IS IN THE  
COLD REGION OF THE  
VAMPIRE SUN. I WAS  
BORN OF THE ETERNAL  
FOGS, THERE IN LAST  
COUNTRY.

NEH-BUH-LOH  
THE HUNTSMAN,  
AM I, MASTER OF  
THE WILD RIDE.

I PREPARE THE  
WAY FOR MY QUEEN OF  
TERROR, WHO WILL COME  
SOON. I WILL SPREAD AT  
HER FEET A CARPET OF  
SKULLS.

I AM OF  
THE OTHER  
WORLD.

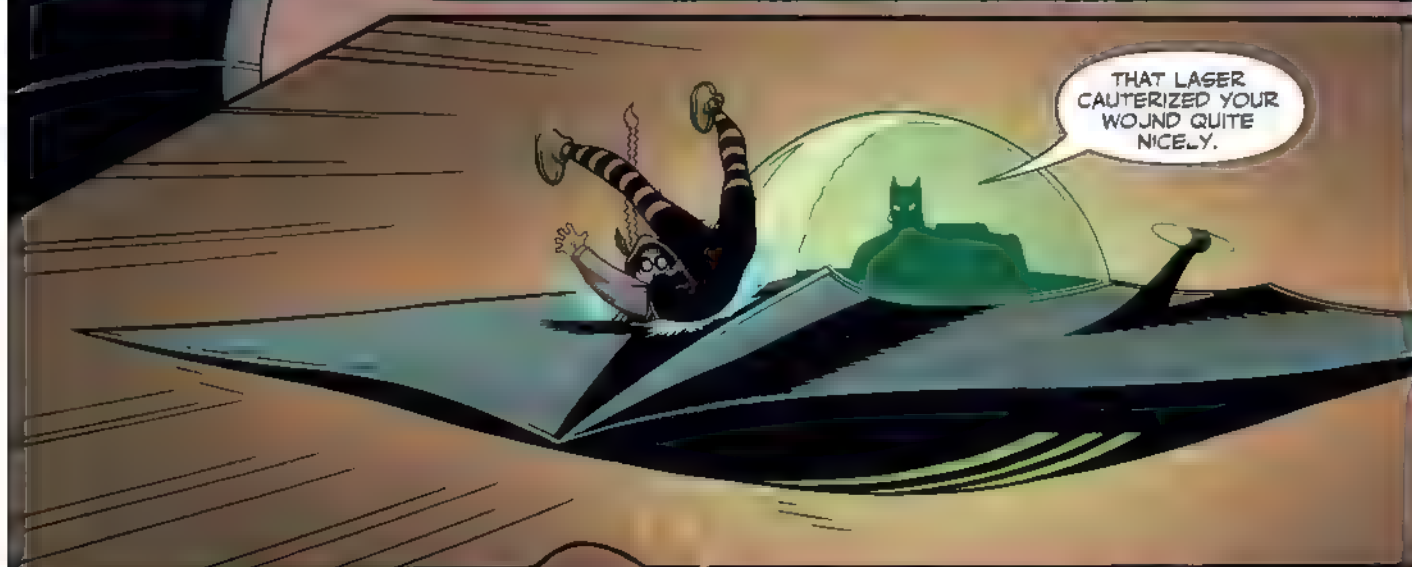
I HERALD  
THE END OF  
THIS ONE.

NOW LET  
US MAKE WEAPONS  
OF THESE SUPER-  
MEN.













IGNORE  
THE **WOBBLE**.  
THE GYROSCOPE'S  
**USELESS** IN HOVER  
MODE.

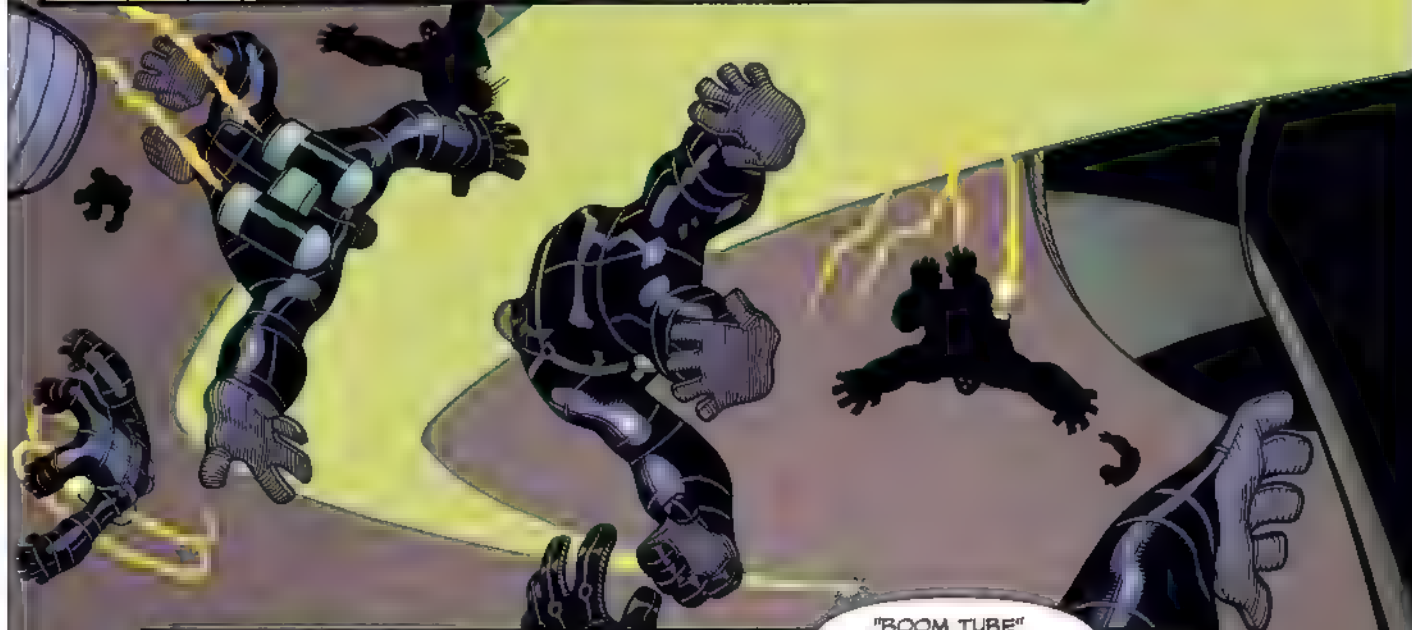
EVER  
FLOWN ONE  
OF THESE  
BEFORE?

A FLYING  
SAUCER? YEAH,  
EVERY DAY,  
RIGHT...

THERE'S  
KILLER **JET APES**  
RIGHT BEHIND  
US.



HIM.  
FASTEN  
YOUR BELT?



"BOOM TUBE"  
GAUNTLET; GENERATES  
SPACETIME WORM-  
HOLES.

READY?





PLUTO?

SLOW DOWN!

JLA REMOTE LAB.

I THINK FAST AND I WORK FAST. CAN YOU KEEP UP, BERYL HUTCHINSON?



BLOODY RIGHT I CAN, AFTER WORKING WITH HIM INDOORS FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS!

GOOD.

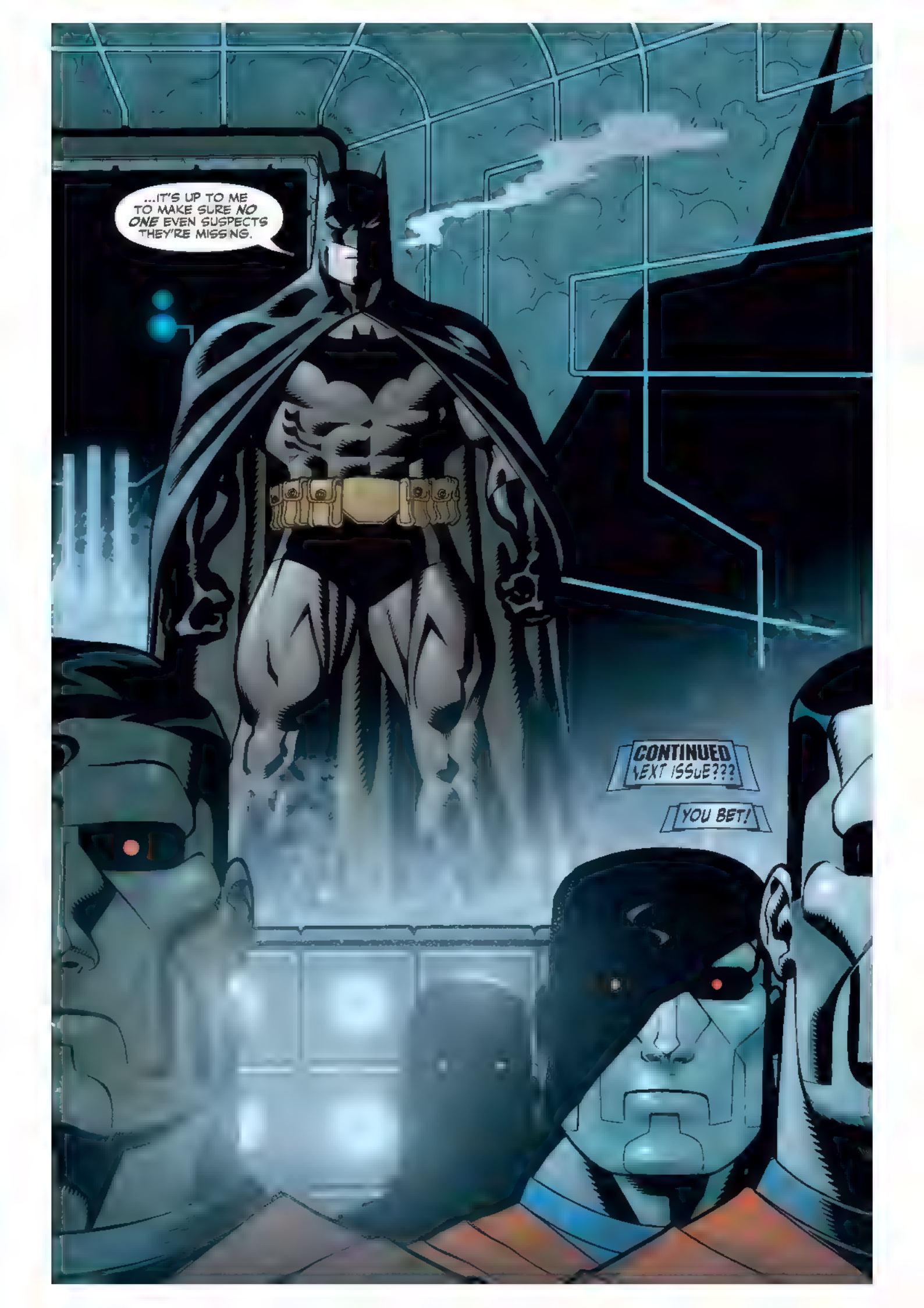
HAD TO HAPPEN IN THE END; A TERRORIST HIJACKS A *SUPER-TEAM* AND TURNS IT INTO A *WEAPON*. IT'S A JLA CASE WAITING TO HAPPEN.

BUT HERE'S OUR BIG PROBLEM:







A full-page comic book illustration. Batman stands in the center, looking forward with a serious expression. He is wearing his iconic black and grey suit with a yellow utility belt. The background is a dark, industrial-looking interior with large windows and metallic structures. In the foreground, the faces of several other characters are visible, looking towards Batman. One character on the right has a red eye. The overall tone is dark and dramatic.

...IT'S UP TO ME  
TO MAKE SURE NO  
ONE EVEN SUSPECTS  
THEY'RE MISSING.

CONTINUED  
NEXT ISSUE???

YOU BET!





JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA®

GRANT  
MORRISON  
ED  
McGUINNESS  
DEXTER  
VINES

2  
FEB 05  
APPROVED BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

CLASSIFIED™

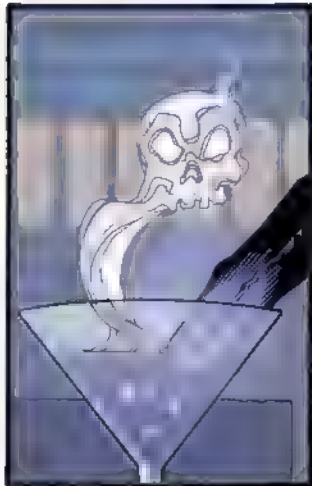
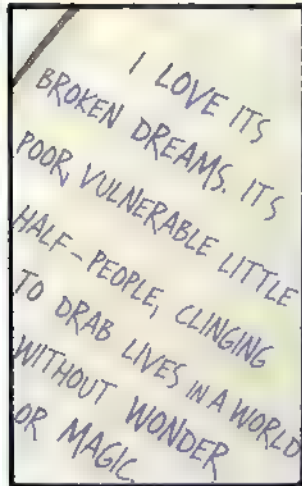
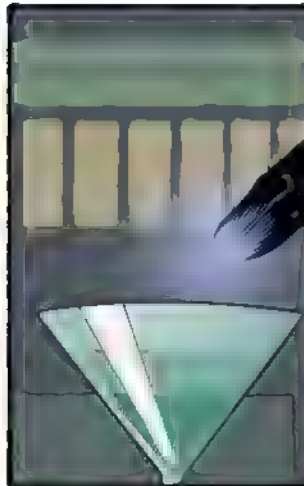
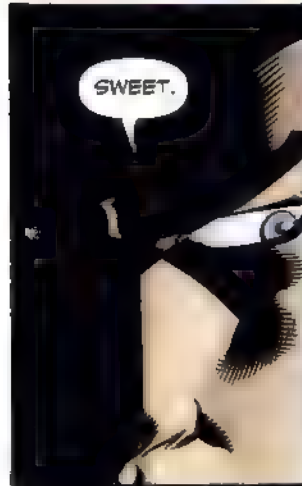
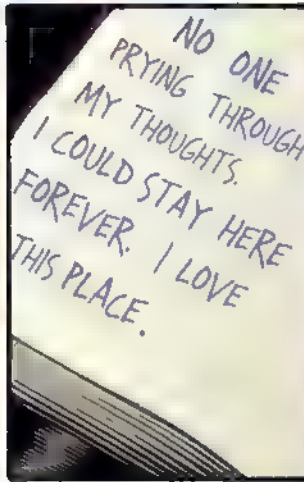
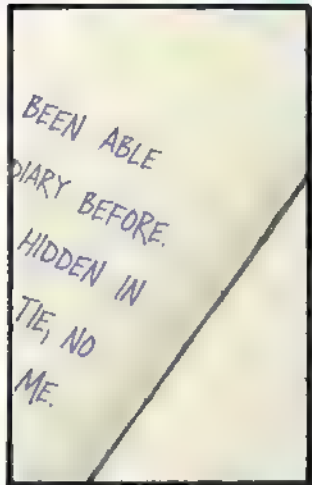
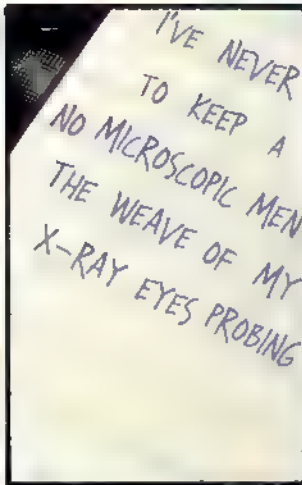
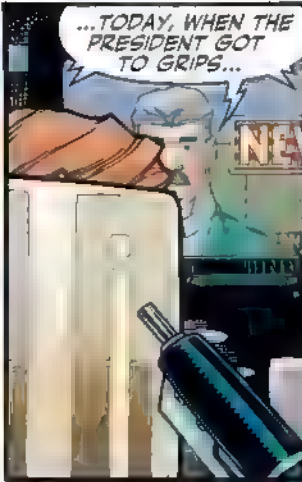


TOMORROW'S  
LEAGUE  
TODAY!

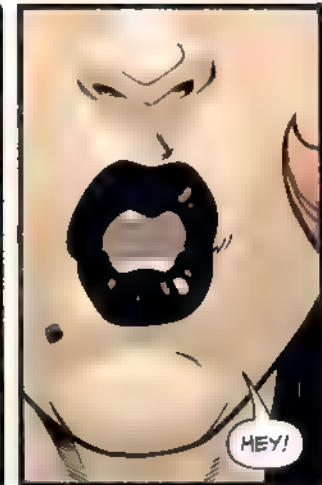
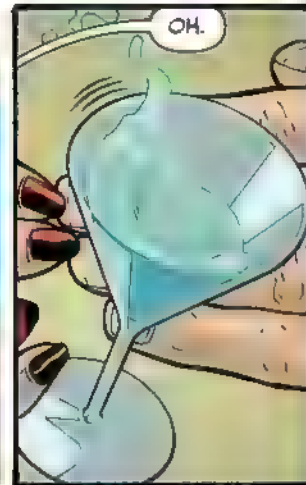
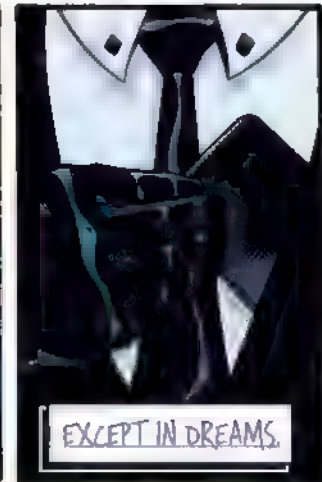
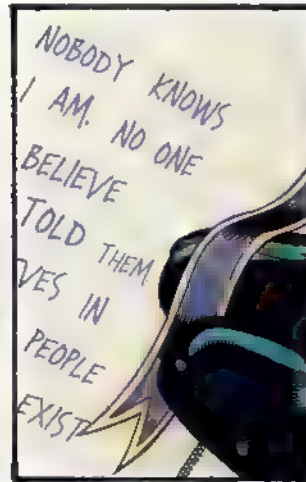
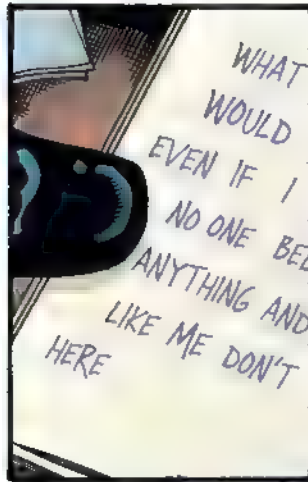
edex

dc.comics.com









OR MOVIES

OR COMIC BOOKS.

OH.

HEY!

JH... PLEASE...  
UH... EXCUSE  
ME, MISS.

...ALWAYS  
SO  
CLUMSY...  
I...

ALLOW ME  
TO... UH... TO BUY  
YOU ANOTHER.

THAT'S  
NICE, BUT...  
NO THANKS.

I... I  
THINK I'M  
DONE.

I'M STILL  
TRYING TO  
RECONNECT  
WITH OUR  
HOMING  
SIGNAL.

I COULD  
DO THIS IN  
SECONDS

THIS IS  
DELICATE  
WORK,  
FLASH

WE CAN'T RISK  
BEING SEEN,  
I KNOW, I  
KNOW.

THEY'LL JUST SAY I'M  
A HALLUCINATION...  
A HOAX.

HERE'S  
SUPERMAN  
NOW.

IT WAS DEFINITELY  
BLACK DEATH.





HE  
POISONED  
SOME  
POOR  
WOMAN'S  
DRINK,  
JUST FOR  
FUN.

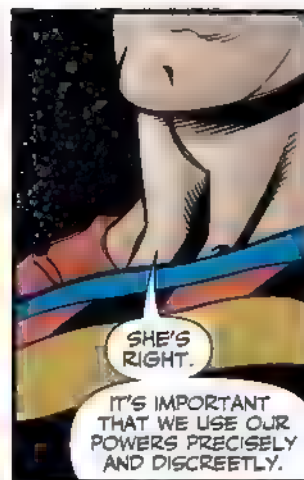


SO LET'S  
TAKE HIM!

TEN MINUTES IN  
THIS PLACE COULD BE  
HOURS IN REAL TIME.



WE CAN'T  
USE OUR USUAL  
TECHNIQUES  
HERE IN THE IN-  
FANT UNIVERSE  
OF QWEWQ.  
WALLACE...YOU  
KNOW THAT.



SHE'S  
RIGHT.

IT'S IMPORTANT  
THAT WE USE OUR  
POWERS PRECISELY  
AND DISCREETLY.



AS UNLIKELY AS IT SEEMS,  
THIS UNHEALTHY ATTO-  
SCOPIC COPY OF EARTH  
DEVELOPED ENTIRELY  
WITHOUT SUPERHEROES.

J'ONN ?



HERE.

HE  
JUST RELEASED  
A DEATH TOXIN  
WHICH I'VE SAFELY  
INHALED.

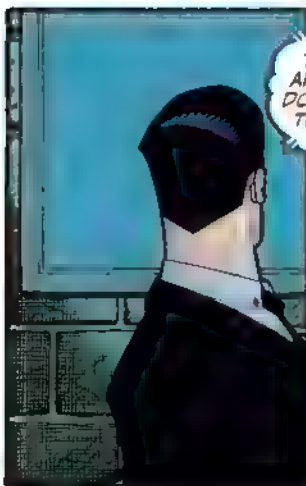


THE SUBWAY  
STATION  
IS ALMOST  
EMPTY.

ALMOST..



HIS  
THOUGHTS...



HIS  
THOUGHTS  
ARE LIKE MAD  
DOGS RUNNING  
THROUGH HIS  
SKULL.



RING  
RING  
RING  
RING  
RING  
RING  
RING  
RING

I CALCULATE  
A THREE-SECOND  
MARGIN BEFORE THE  
NEAREST PERSON  
GETS HERE.

READY?



WRONG  
NUMBER.



HELLO ?





ANY  
LUCK?

I NEARLY  
HAD SOMETHING  
THERE

# MASTER OF LIGHT

Grant Morrison >> Writer  
Ed McGuinness >> Penciller  
Dexter Vines >> Inker

Dave McCaig >> Colorist  
Phil Balsman >> Letterer

Michael Siglain >> Assist. Editor  
Mike Carlin >> Editor



...THERE'S  
A TON OF MOVING  
PARTS WHICH CAN PUT  
YER RIGHT OFF...BUT  
"UNIVERSE" MEANS  
IT'S ALL ONE THING  
REALLY.

RADIO, MICRO-  
WAVES, HEAT, LIGHT...  
THAT'S HOW STARS  
COMMUNICATE WITH  
ONE ANOTHER.

IT'S LIKE  
THE SONGS OF  
THE HUMPBACK  
WHALES...

THEY TOLD ME  
YOU WERE EDUCATED  
ON THE STREETS.

WERE THESE  
THE STREETS  
OF PRINCETON,  
BERYL?

THE  
HUTCHINSONS  
NEVER HAD NO  
MONEY BUT THEY  
ALWAYS HAD **BRAINS**  
AND A LOVE OF  
THE LIBRARY.

ANYHOW, I  
RECKON IF I  
HEAT FNGS  
UP A LITTLE  
BIT...

BE CAREFUL.  
THERE'S A **SUPER-  
VILLAIN** LOOSE IN  
THERE--**BLACK  
DEATH.**

THE LEAGUE  
**FOLLOWED** HIM INTO  
THE INFANT UNIVERSE. THAT  
WAS THREE DAYS AGO...  
AFTER AN ENCOUNTER  
IN METROPOLIS.

YOU KNOW  
WHAT THESE  
LUNATICS ARE  
LIKE.

I'VE SEEN MORE  
SUPER-NUTTERS AS THE  
**SQUIRE** THAN ANY GRL'S GOT  
A RIGHT--THE **METALEKS**,  
OLD KING COAL, BLEEDING  
SPRINGHEELED JACK...  
BRRR.

I RECKON I CAN  
HANDLE ONE WHAT'S  
ATTOSCOPICALLY  
**TINY.**

GOOD  
GIRL.

BUT YOUR  
COLLEAGUES IN THE  
**ULTRAMARINE CORPS** ARE  
ABOUT TO BE HIJACKED  
INTO SERVICE AS TERROR  
WEAPONS BY **GORILLA  
GRODD.**

SO WHILE YOU  
CONTACT THE JLA  
AND TELL THEM  
BATMAN SAYS IT'S  
**URGENT--**

--I HAVE TO  
MAKE IT LOOK LIKE  
THEY NEVER WENT  
AWAY.





YOU'VE GOT  
MY NUMBER IF  
YOU NEED IT.

"KNIGHT  
TO PAWNS 1  
THROUGH 5."

FOLLOW  
ME.

POWERS  
ONLINE.



Look  
after yourself,  
Batman.



HEH

I'LL LEAVE  
YOU THE  
FLYING SAUCER,  
BERYL.



BOOM TUBE  
ENGAGE



I THOUGHT I  
HEARD *THUNDER*...  
COSMIC THUNDER.

HAVE  
YOU EVER EATEN  
*SUPERHERO*,  
NEH-BUH-LOH ?

URRM...  
TOUGH...

BUT *WE'LL*  
WORTH THE  
EFFORT

I NEVER  
EAT MY  
PREY.

WE HAVE  
THE LAST OF THE  
ULTRAMARINES  
BESIEGED IN THEIR  
ARMORY.

WITH THEM IS  
THE ONE I SEEDED  
MY *PRESENT*  
FORM IN.

SPINE RIDERS  
OF THE *SHEEDA*  
WILL TAKE CONTROL  
OF THE REST.

NO NEED  
FOR YOUR  
"SAVAGE  
TELEPATHY."

IT HAS  
ITS USES, THIS  
*ATOMIC SUMO*.  
FOR INSTANCE.

GORAIKO'S  
BRAN IS  
A SIMPLE  
RECEIVER

WITHOUT ITS HUMAN  
*OPERATOR*, NO MATCH  
FOR MY "SAVAGE  
TELEPATHY."

I HAVE ONLY  
TO *MASTER* MY  
ROARING THOUGHTS,  
EXTEND--

--AND THE  
MONSTER IS *MINE*  
TO D RECT.





BEATEN UP BY GODDIN' GORILLAS.

YOU'D BE ASHAMED OF YERSELF TOO.

ANYWAY, GRODD HAD HIS PAWS ON THIS BIG OL' STARRY-LOOKIN' THING...

YOU KNOW, YOU GUYS GOT LUCKY BIG TIME.

IF I HADN'T BEEN DOING INVENTORY ON THE WEAPONS STASH WHEN THE STATION WENT DOWN...



WE NEED EVERY SCRAP OF LUCK WE CAN MUSTER.

GRODD HAD HELP, THAT'S FOR SURE. NOT JUST THOSE GREASY JET APES OF HIS BUT SOMETHING ELSE.

THAT "STARRY THING" WAS ABLE TO TAKE DOWN GORAIKO, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

WELL, WERE THE DAMN ULTRA-MARINE CORPS, CYRIL.

LET'S DEAL WITH THIS RATIONALLY.

THEY SMASHED SCOTT'S WARMAKER ARMOR BUT HE'S BODILESS SO HE MAY HAVE GOTTEN OUT.

ANYTHING TO ADD TO THE DISCUSSION, JOHNNY-BOY?

YOU CAN TYPE INSTRUCTIONS DIRECTLY ONTO THE "KEYBOARD OF BEING," OR SO YOU KEEP TELLING US.

FANCY TYPING US A WAY OUT OF THIS ONE, MATE?

...I...

NO TIME TO GO ALL QUANTUM ZEN ON US.

WHO'S UP FOR BLOWING AWAY A FEW BAD MONKEYS? I KNOW I AM!

I'VE WAITED ALL ME STINKIN' LIFE TO HEAR THOSE WORDS.

God, I'm sore all over

SHE'S WORTH THREE OF YOU IN A FIGHT, YOU LOOSE-LIMBED, FLIP-FLOPPING MICK.

SHE WON'T LET US DOWN.

AND I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I THINK THIS IS ALL ABOUT...

THERE'S ALWAYS THE ONE BIT MY HEALING GIFTS DON'T REACH.

SO YER WEE LASS, BERYL, RAN FOR HELP, DID SHE?

FAR D'YOU THINK SHE GOT?



...THERE ARE CURRENTLY **THIRTY** FREE-LANCE SUPERHUMANS ON THIS STATION. THAT'S **THIRTY** LIVING WEAPONS.

IT'S SO **OBVIOUS** IT'S A **BLOODY** MIRACLE NO ONE'S HAD THE NUTS TO TRY IT BEFORE.

MAYBE THEY WERE WAITING FOR THE JLA TO BE OUT OF THE WAY FOR A **WEE** WHILE, JUST **LONG** ENOUGH.

I MEAN, WHY WASTE **AIRCRAFT** OR **BOMBS** ON YOUR TARGETS WHEN YOU CAN **BRANWASH** A **REUSABLE** **ATOMIC** MONSTER?

A **HUMAN** **MISSILE**? A **FLIP-FLOPPING** **RSH** **SUPER-COMMANDO**?

WELL, IT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME.

YOU AND I GOT OUT OF **QURAC** RIDDLED WITH **RADIOACTIVE** **BUCKSHOT**, **JACK**.

HERE  
NERVE  
RIFLE.

EARTH TO  
MASTER.

YOU NEED TO **USE** ANY OF THIS STUFF OR WHAT, **JOHNNY**?

**SOME RESPONSE** WOULD BE APPRECIATED...

THING IS, I **LIED** TO YOU ABOUT THE "**RIDDLED**" BIT, **BIG** MAN.

IT WAS ONLY THE **ONE** **PELLET** I WAS RIDDLED WITH AND IT HIT ME IN THE MEAT OF ME BUTT.

I WAS ONLY KEEPING YOU **COMPANY** IN YOUR AGONY

PUT THE GUNS BACK.

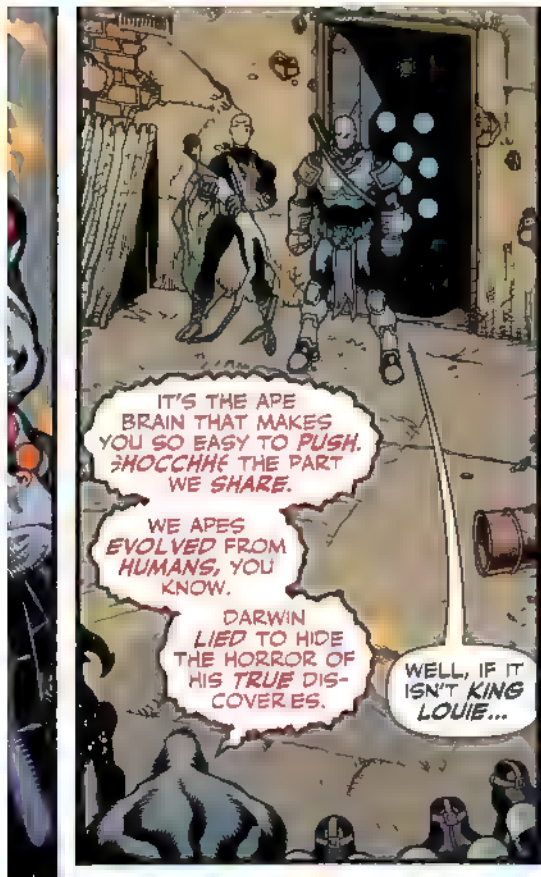
I'VE BEEN **TRYING** TO RESIST, BUT...

...WHEN THEY DIG IN WITH THEIR **SPURS** YOU HAVE TO OBEY.









IT'S THE APE  
BRAIN THAT MAKES  
YOU SO EASY TO PUSH.  
SHOCCHHE THE PART  
WE SHARE.

WE APES  
EVOLVED FROM  
HUMANS, YOU  
KNOW.

DARWIN  
LIED TO HIDE  
THE HORROR OF  
HIS TRUE DIS-  
COVERES.

WELL, IF IT  
ISN'T KING  
LOUIE...



BEHOLD  
YOUR  
CAPTAIN.

WARMAKER!  
BROKEN.



YOU'LL NOTICE  
WE'VE REACTIVATED  
SUPERBIA AS IT  
ONCE WAS

I'VE  
RENAMED  
IT GORILLA-  
TROPOLIS.

WHAT  
HAPPENED?

WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO THE  
PEOPLE?

ALL THE OTHER  
PEOPLE WHO LIVE  
HERE ON SUPERBIA  
STATION?

THERE...THERE  
WERE HUNDREDS  
OF MEN, WOMEN AND  
CHILDREN! REFUGEES  
WE'VE RESCUED FROM  
OPPRESSION!

WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO THEM,  
YOU VICIOUS  
BASTARD?



I CAN ASSURE YOU..

THEY WON'T BE OPPRESSED EVER AGAIN.

YOU WON'T GET ALL OF US.

YOUR IMMENSE POWERS WILL BE DIRECTED AT THE GREAT CITIES AND MONUMENTS OF THE HUMAN WORLD.

BY MORNING, THEY WILL BE RUBBLE AND SEWER, FIT ONLY FOR HUMAN VERMIN TO DIE IN.

CYRIL!

WHAT'S THAT THING ON HIS NECK?

WHILE THE GRODD DYNASTY LEADS THIS PLANET INTO A NEW GOLDEN AGE!

I'M SORRY, CYRIL.

THEY GOT ME TOO.

THE PARASITES GOT ALL OF US.



NOW  
YOU.

IT ONLY  
HURTS AT  
FIRST.

YOU ARE  
WEAPONS NOW,  
NOT PEOPLE.

YOUR STATION  
WILL BE THE MOBILE  
CAPITAL OF A SIMIAN  
EMPIRE, DELIVERING MY  
CREED TO ALL THE  
NATIONS OF MAN.

PERHAPS I'LL  
LET SOME OF YOU  
LIVE AND BREED  
IN ZOOS

PERHAPS  
NOT.

DON'T--

GLUBB

...STATUES WILL  
TOPPLE, PAINTINGS AND  
BOOKS THAT SHOW THE  
WORLD THROUGH HUMAN  
EYES WILL BURN!

I WILL LIVE  
TO SEE MAN'S  
CIVILIZATION  
WRECKED IN  
THE DIRT!

AND  
HISTORY  
REWRITTEN  
BY AN  
APE.



PHILISTINE.

WITHOUT YOUR  
JUSTICE LEAGUE,  
BATMAN?

WHAT  
WILL YOU  
DO!?



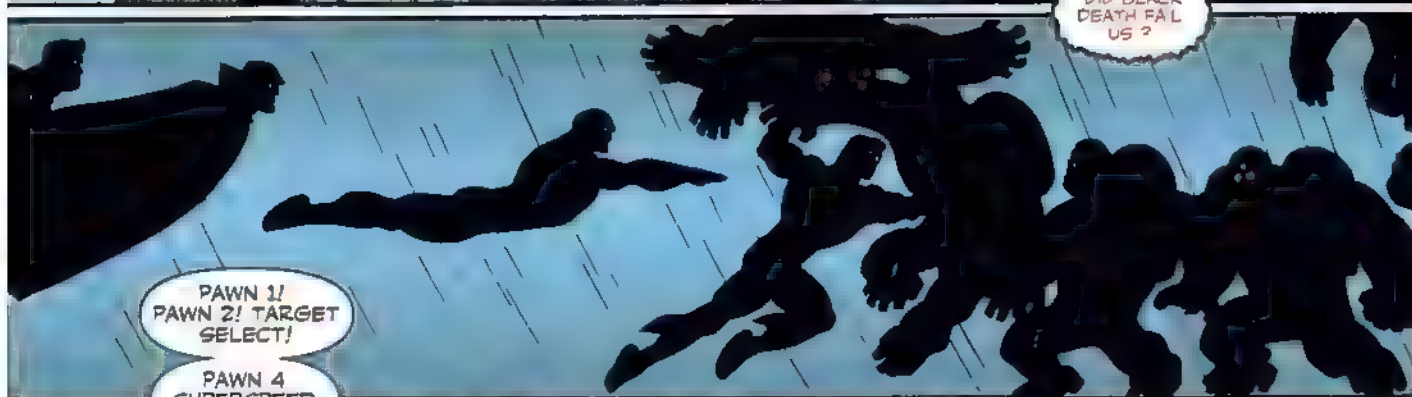




GRODD.  
THIS IS  
YOUR FINAL  
WARNING.

HAAURRCHH?!

DID BLACK  
DEATH FALL  
US?



PAWN 1!  
PAWN 2! TARGET  
SELECT!

PAWN 4  
SUPERSPEED  
DISARM.

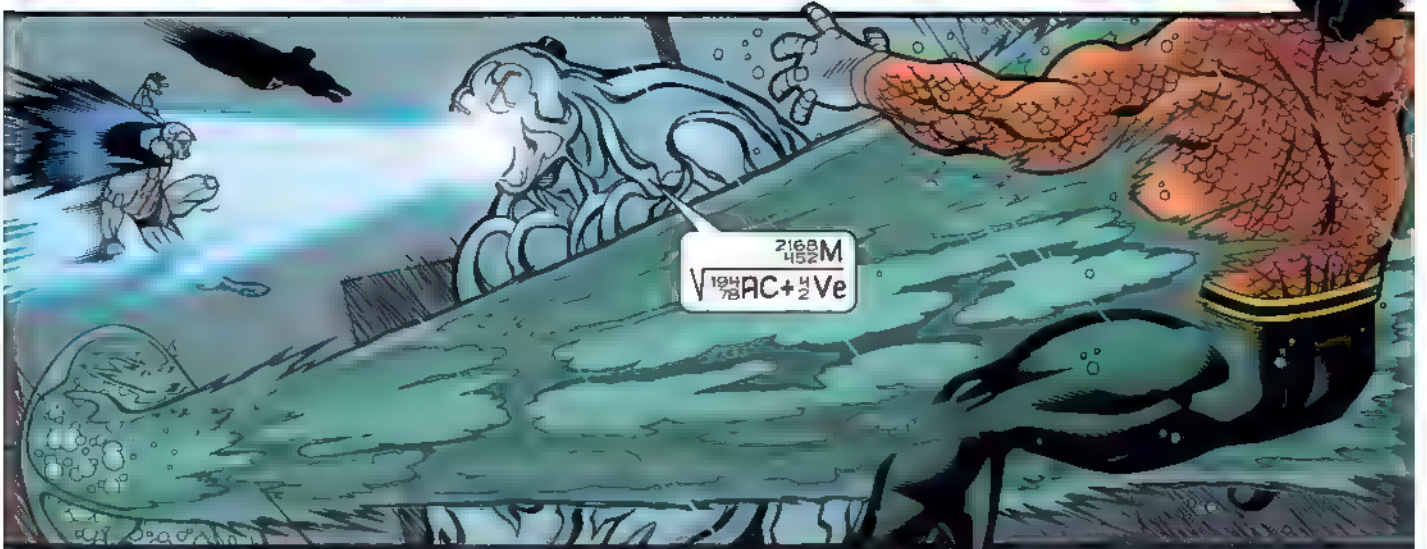
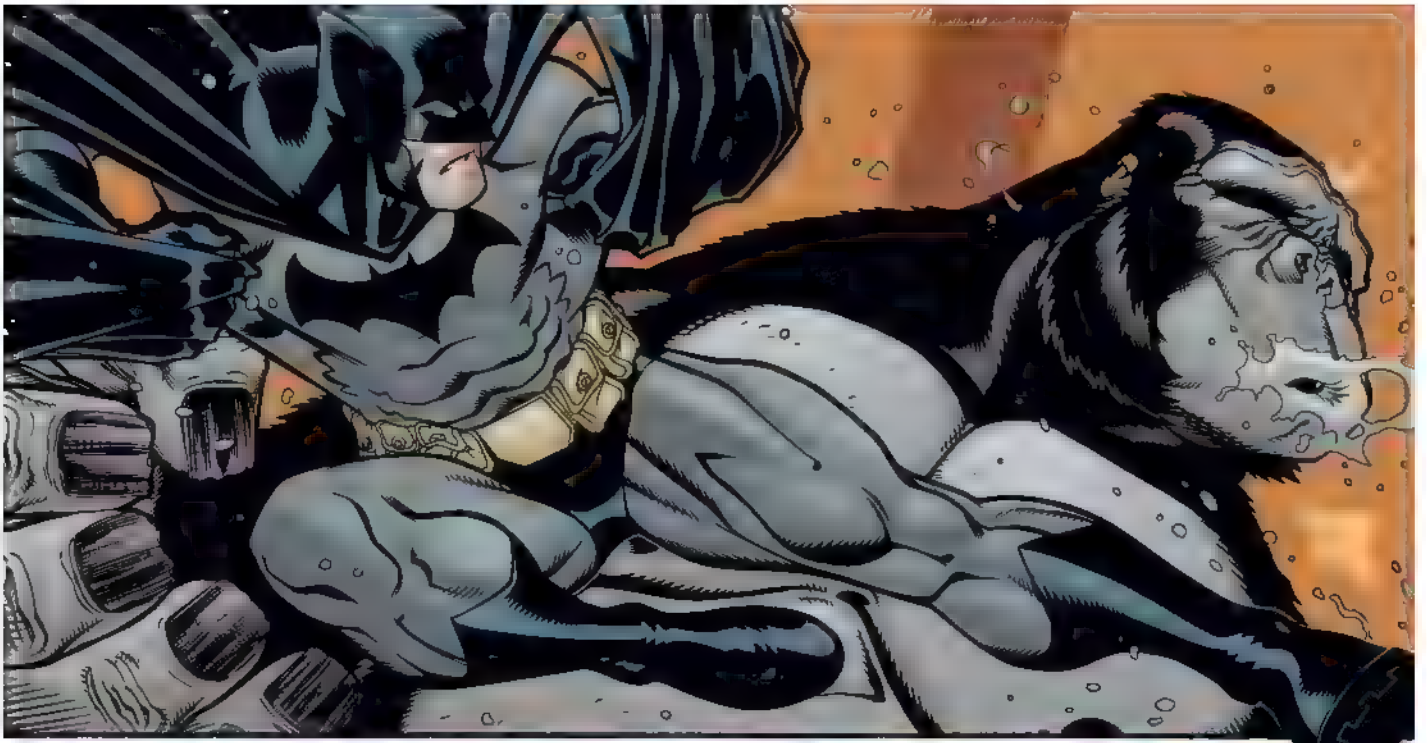


I'M  
COMING  
IN.

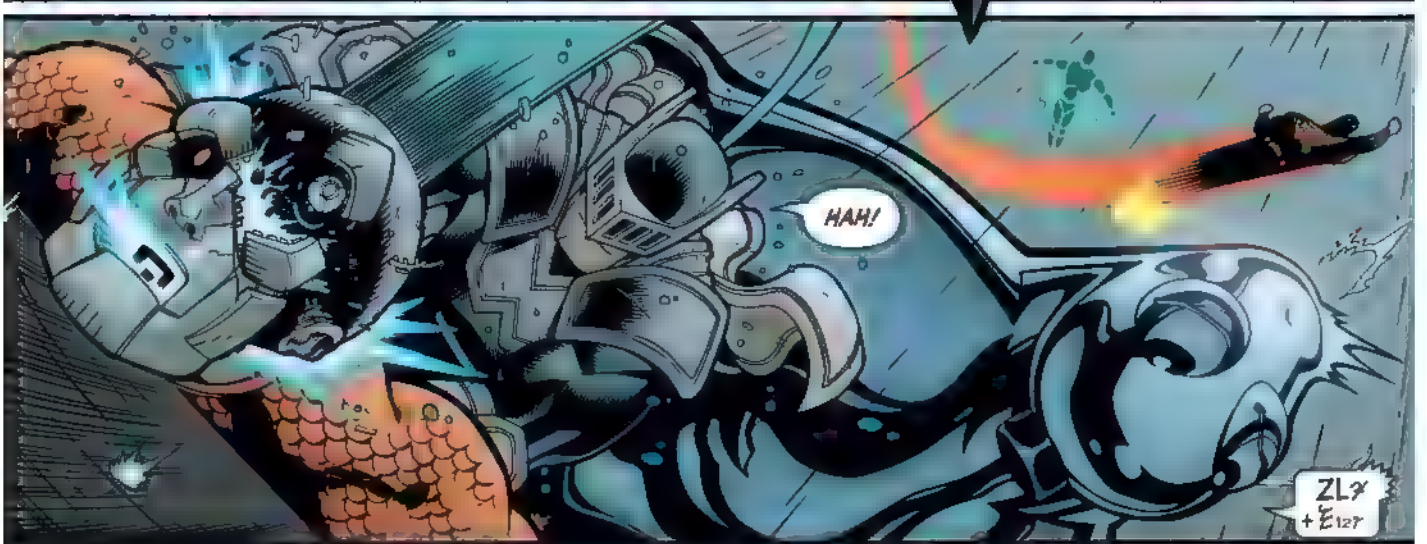
MOVE.

EXECUTED.

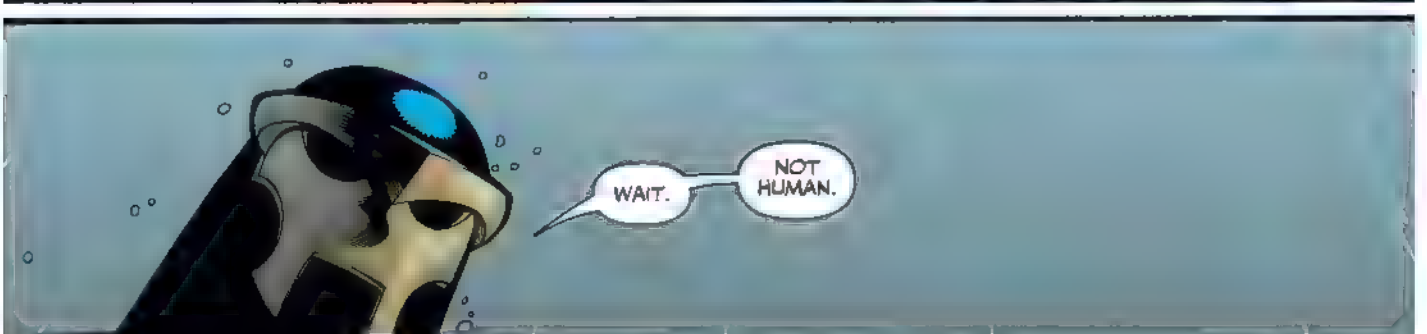




2168M  
452M  
 $\sqrt{194 \frac{78}{8} RC + \frac{1}{2} Ve}$



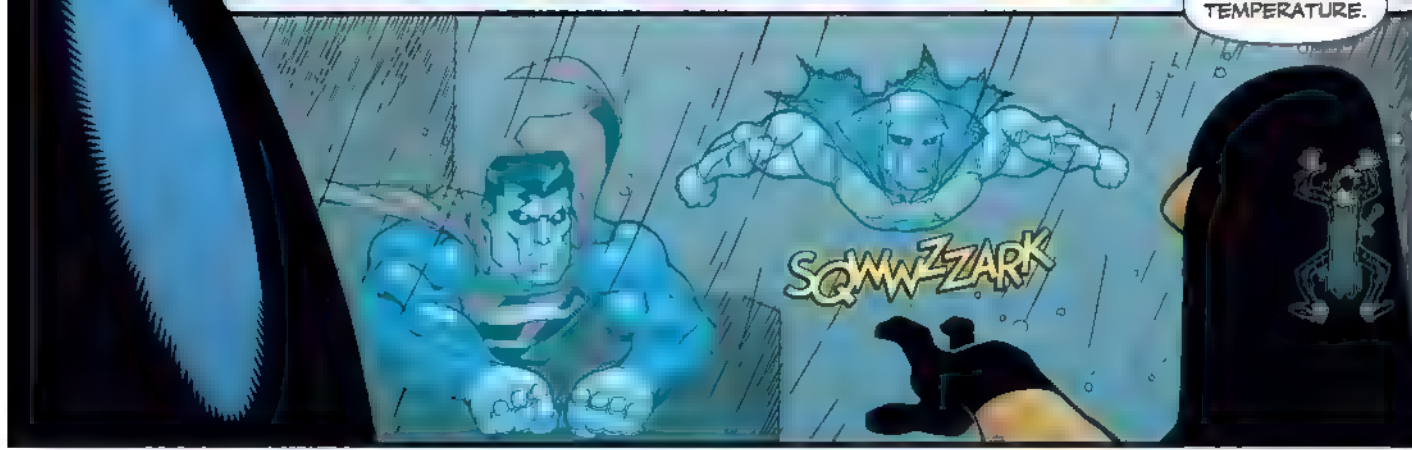
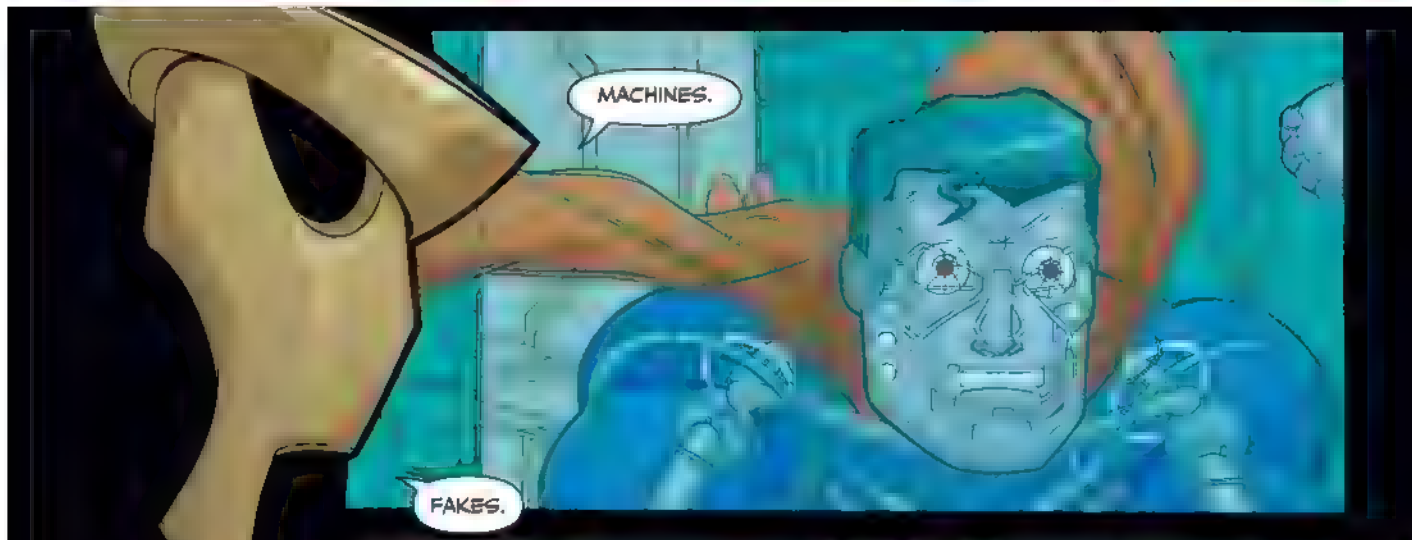
ZL7  
+E127



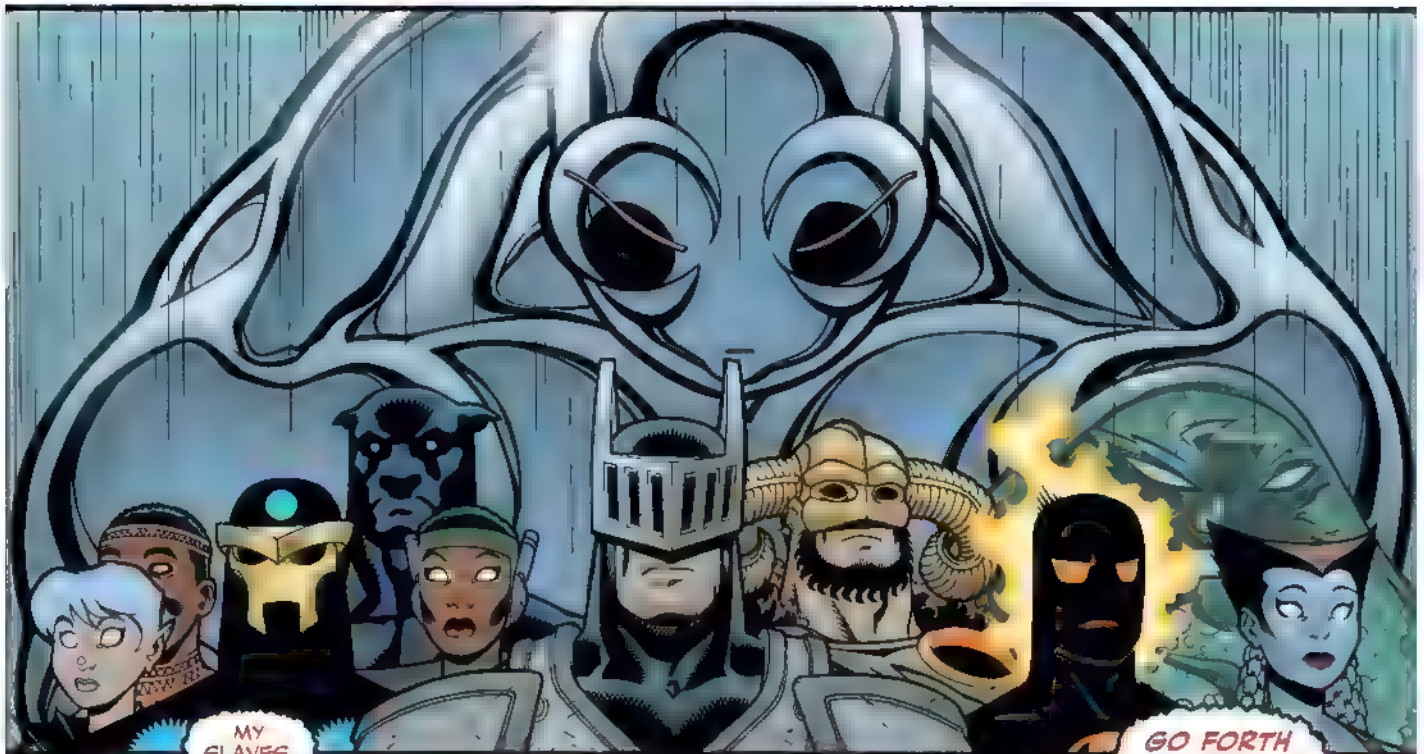
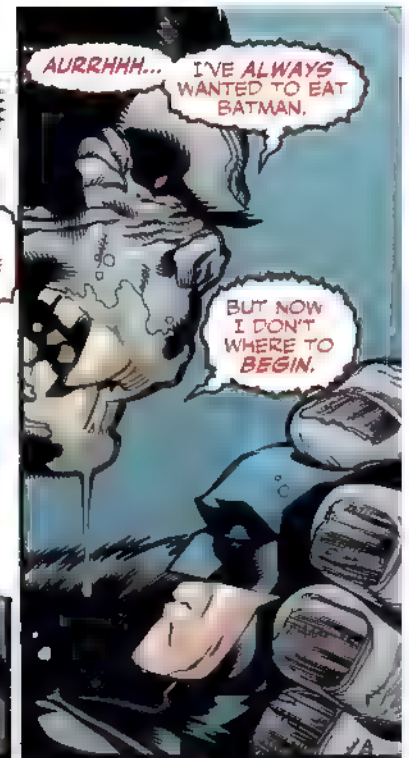
WAIT.

NOT HUMAN.



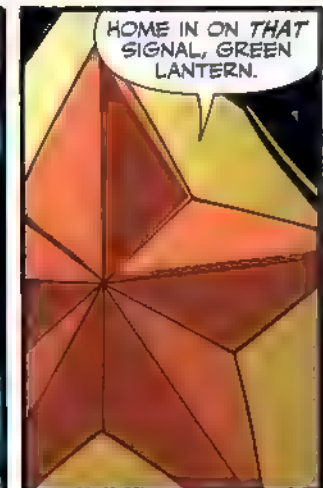
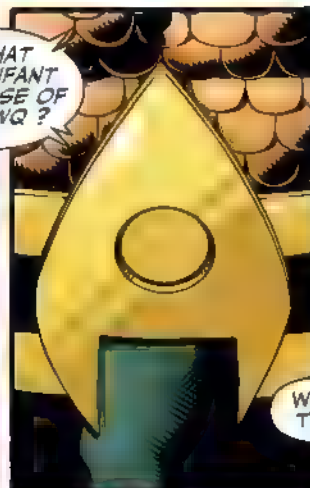
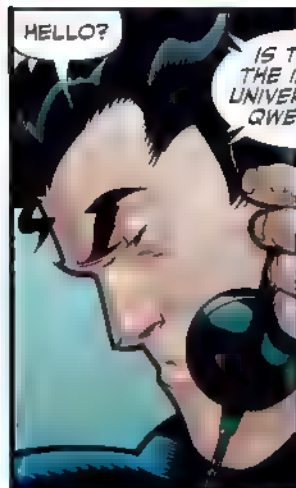
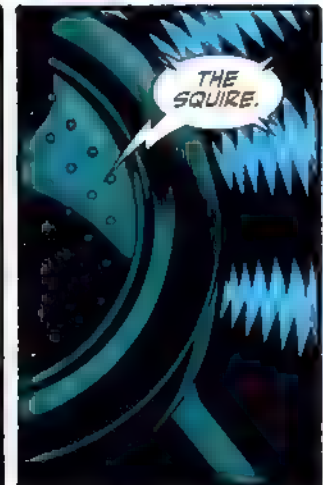




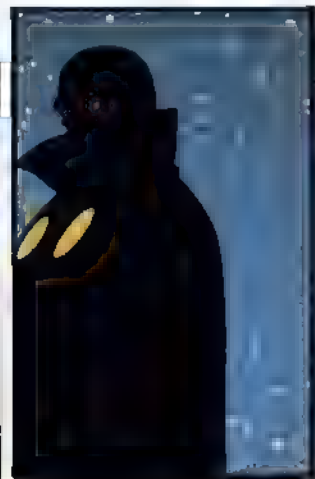
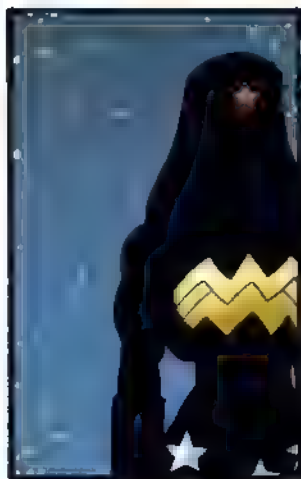
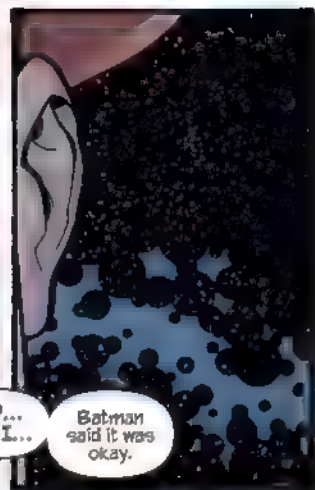
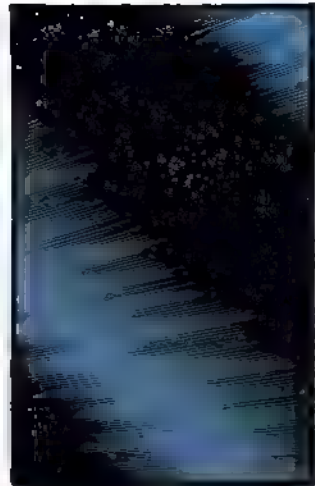
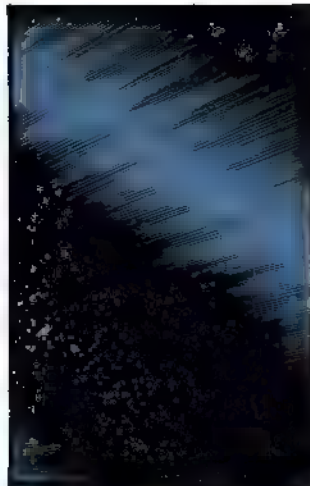
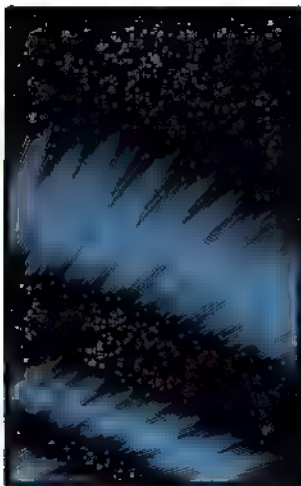


**DESTROY!**












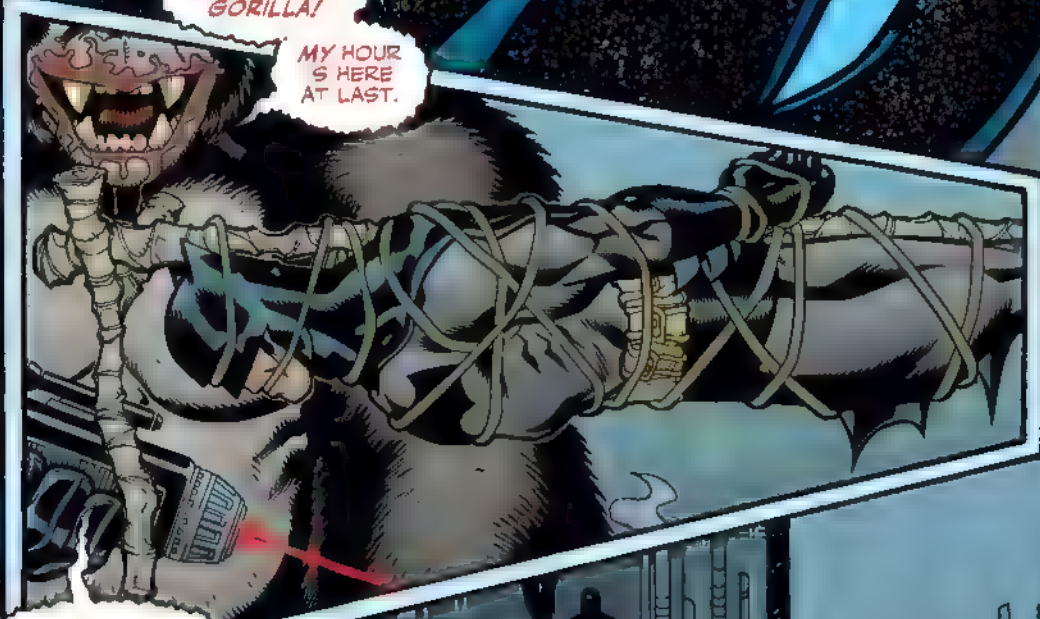


I COME TO  
STRIKE DOWN THE  
*SEVEN*; BRED TO  
HUNT AND KILL THE  
SUPERMEN.

I CAN  
SMELL  
THEM!

NOW COMES  
THE ETERNAL  
DAWN OF THE  
*GORILLA*!

MY HOUR  
S HERE  
AT LAST.



AND WHAT'S A  
VICTORY WITHOUT  
A FEAST?

CELEBRATE!

GRODD'S  
DAY HAS  
COME!

NOW BRING  
THE HUMAN AGE  
TO ITS BLOODY  
CONCLUSION!





SORRY, GUYS—IT'S  
NOT OVER UNTIL THE  
WORLD ENDS!!

DON'T ADD NEXT ISSUE!

# JLA vs. ULTRAMARINES





JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

GRANT MORRISON

ED MCGUINNESS

DEXTER VINES

3  
MAR 05  
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

# JLA

CLASSIFIED

INTO THE FIRE!



napa

www.dccomics.com



**FIRST, SEEK  
SHELTER.**

Dawn arrives  
before dawn

DO NOT  
ATTEMPT TO  
COMMUNICATE  
OR INTERACT WITH  
THEM IN ANY  
WAY.

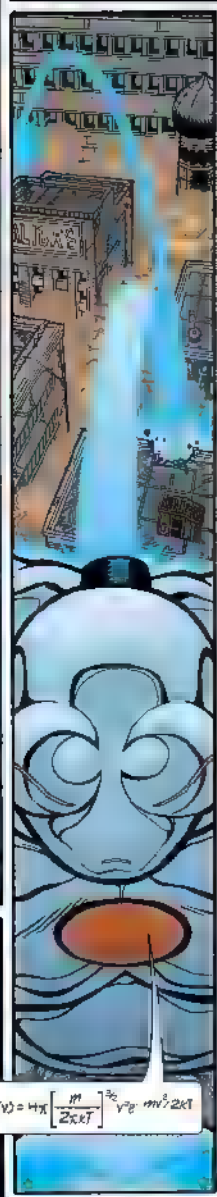
**SOME CAN  
CHANGE SIZE RAPIDLY  
OR REACH TEMPERATURES  
EQUIVALENT TO THE  
SURFACE OF THE SUN  
IN SECONDS.**

In the morning  
of destruction

DO NOT.  
REPEAT, DO  
NOT--

**ZZZZZZZZTTTTZZ**





$$f(v) = 4\pi \left[ \frac{m}{2\pi kT} \right]^{3/2} v^2 e^{-mv^2/2kT}$$



HELP  
JG!

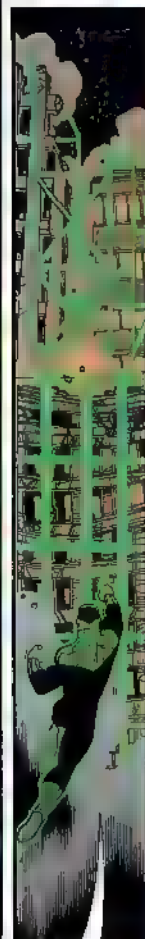
SOMEBODY  
HELP US!



MY  
SPECIALIST  
SUBJECT

GREEN LANTERN

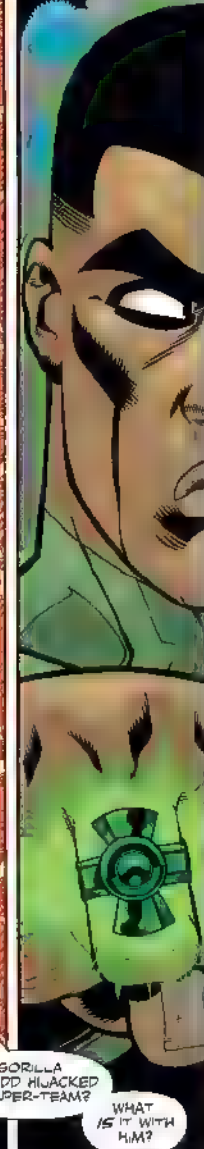
JOHN STEWART:  
MASTER OF AN ALIEN  
"WISHING RING,"  
WHICH "TURNS"  
THOUGHTS INTO  
SOLID OBJECTS



ARCHITECTURAL  
RENEWAL.

FLASH?

PASSED ON MY  
SPEED TO ALL OF  
'EM! SPINNING THEIR  
MOLECULES LIKE  
PLATES TO KEEP 'EM  
SAFE INSIDE THE  
BLAST!

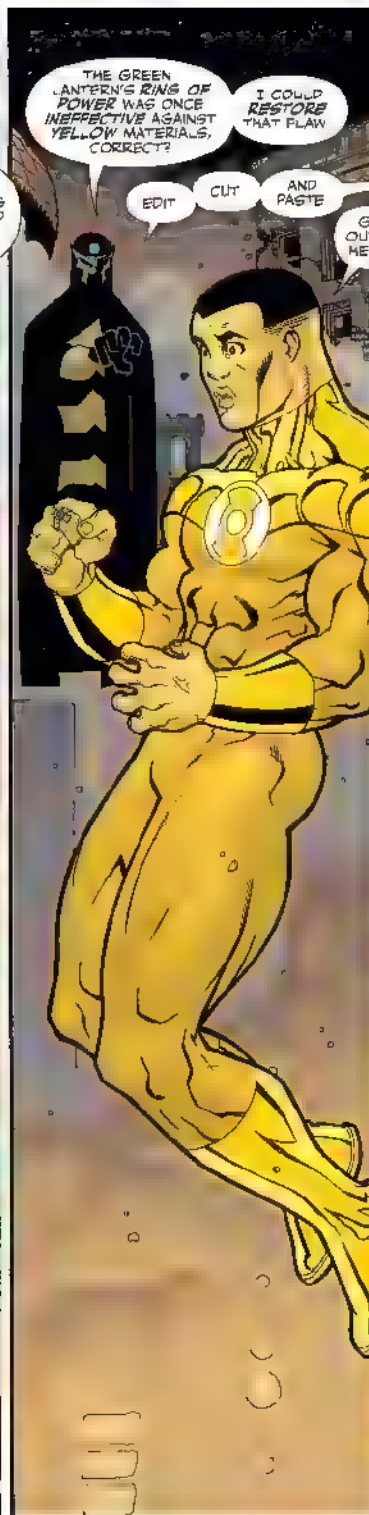


YOU TELL  
ME

I'M  
WAY TOO  
BUSY TRYING  
TO SCAFFOLD  
CAIRO BACK  
TOGETHER.

GORILLA  
GRODD HIJACKED  
A SUPER-TEAM?

WHAT  
IS IT WITH  
HIM?



THE GREEN  
LANTERN'S RING OF  
POWER WAS ONCE  
INEFFECTIVE AGAINST  
YELLOW MATERIALS,  
CORRECT?

I COULD  
RESTORE  
THAT FLAW

EDIT

CUT

AND  
PASTE

GET  
OUTTA  
HERE

EXCELLENT



JOHN!

THE  
FLASH

WALLY  
WEST--  
THINKING AT  
THE SPEED  
OF LIGHT





YOU KEEP SPINNING, SR...

AND JOHN, I HOPE THIS WORKS!

YOU AND ME BOTH, WALLY.

?

YELLOW, HUH?

RIDICULOUS.





...I'LL CLEAR THE DECKS AND **DISABLE** THE STATION. SUPERMAN HAS THE TOWER.

GORAİKO'S OPERATOR IS SEDATED ON LEVEL 10. HIGH SECURITY.

YOU ALL KNOW ME.

J.L.A. DIPLOMATIC ENVOY.

LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES.

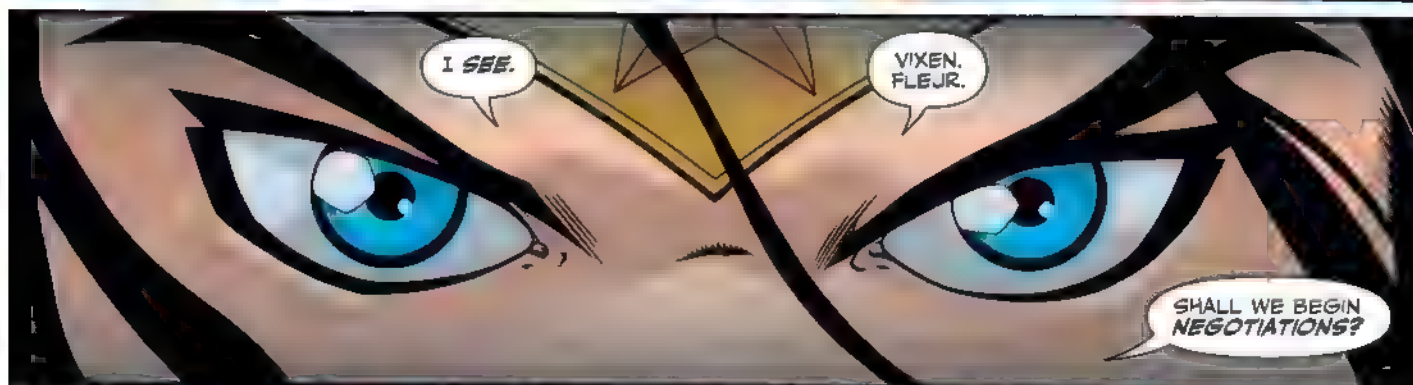
SHE'S YOUR OBJECTIVE.

I LOVE IT WHEN YOU BARK ORDERS AT ME, DIANA.

HMM.

I'VE HEARD THAT ABOUT YOU, ARTHUR.

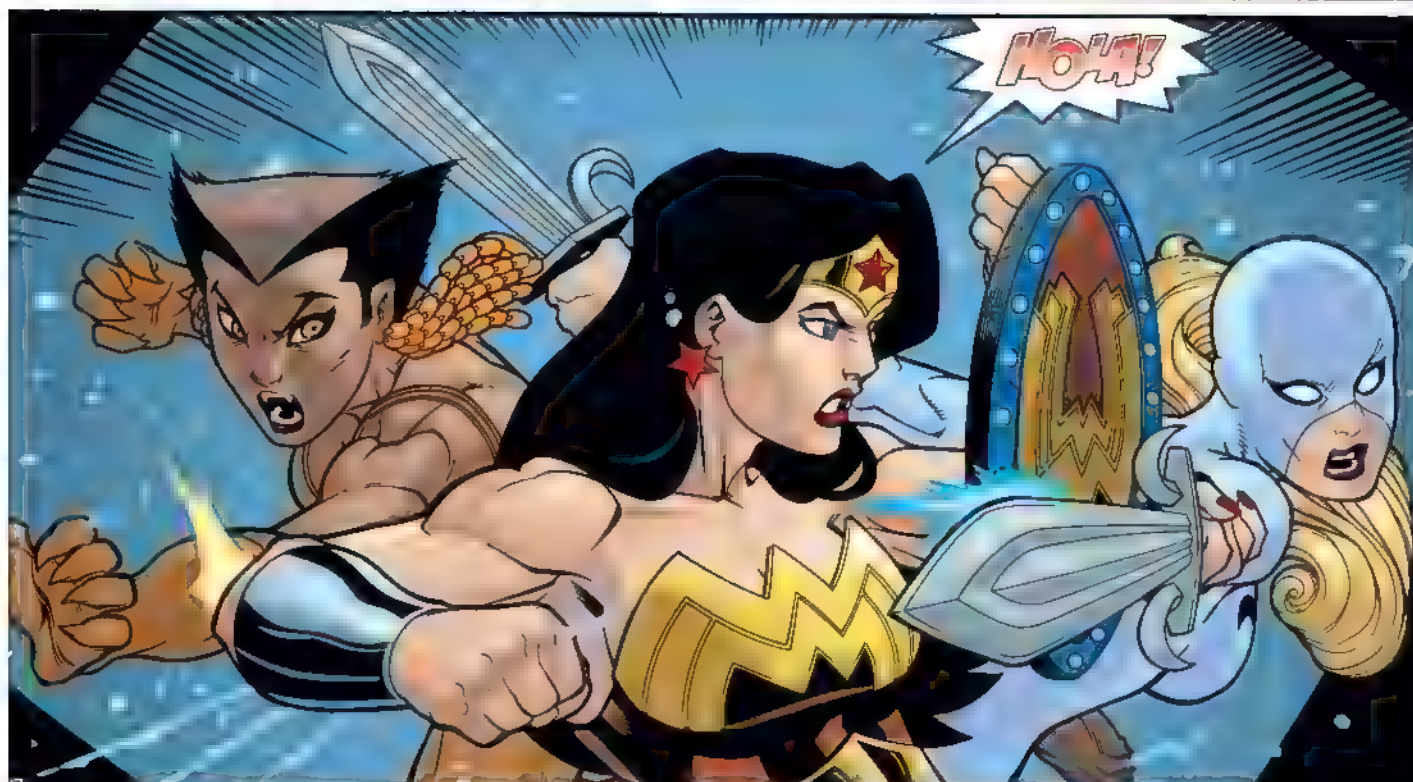
GRRRR



I SEE.

VIXEN. FLEUR.

SHALL WE BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS?



NO!!





A DYNASTY, A WORLD  
RUN BY **GORILLAS** LIKE  
ME, BATMAN. THAT'S  
THE PLAN.

A BILLION  
CLONES OF  
**GRODD**! HOW  
DOES THAT  
SOUND TO  
YOU?

A PLANET  
OF THE APES.  
HURRHH!



SNUFF!

...I THOUGHT  
I SMELLED  
SOMETHING...

ARE YOU  
LISTENING TO  
ME, BATMAN?



LIKE ALL FALLEN  
GODS, YOU AND YOUR  
KIND WILL LIVE ON IN APE  
LEGENDS AS SAVAGE  
MONSTERS.

DEMONIC  
OPPRESSORS, OVER-  
THROWN BY THE DIVINE  
**GRODD** AT THE DAWN  
OF THE GLORIOUS  
GORILLA AGE!

YOUR WORKS WILL  
BE FORGOTTEN. YOUR NAMES  
WILL BE USED TO FRIGHTEN  
CHILDREN AT NIGHT.



SNURRT!

BUT FIRST I'M  
GOING TO EAT  
YOU, BIT BY  
BIT.

I WANT THEM TO  
FIND YOU LIMBLESS AND  
BROKEN, HANGING IN MY  
LARDER WITH THE REST  
OF THE MEAT.



RAAAAAUUU!





YESSS,  
THE RIGHT  
ARM FIRST.  
"CRUNCH!" THE  
GREAT BATMAN  
SOBBING LIKE A  
FRIGHTENED  
CHILD...

MMURRRMM!  
THE JUICE IS  
RISING!



UFFF!

NNGGH!

?

DID I  
HEAR...

GRODD.



I'VE  
KILLED APES  
BEFORE.

DON'T  
TEMPT ME



HAUCCH!

THERE  
GOES THE  
DYNASTY.





J'ONN! STOP GORAİKO AT ALL COSTS!

J'ONN J'ONZZ--TELEPATHIC, SHAPESHIFTING

**MANHUNTER FROM MARS**

A LIVING SWITCHBOARD AT THE HEART OF THE J.L.A.'S MIND-TO-MIND INSTANT COMMUNICATION NETWORK.

HIS ONLY WEAKNESS, FIRE.

I HAVE HIM! BUT MY MARTIAN SENSES TELL ME... GORAİKO IS NOT ALONE...

**OLYMPIAN**

ARISTIDES DEMETRIOS--DISGRACED "SCHIZOPHRENIC SUPERMAN" OF GREECE.

RIDING SHOTGUN.

J'ONN!

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!

J'ONN?!







COME  
THEN!

WHICH OF THE  
LEGENDARY CHAMPIONS  
OF THIS AGE WILL BE  
FIRST TO FALL AT MY  
FEET?

SEND  
YOUR WORLD'S  
FINEST!



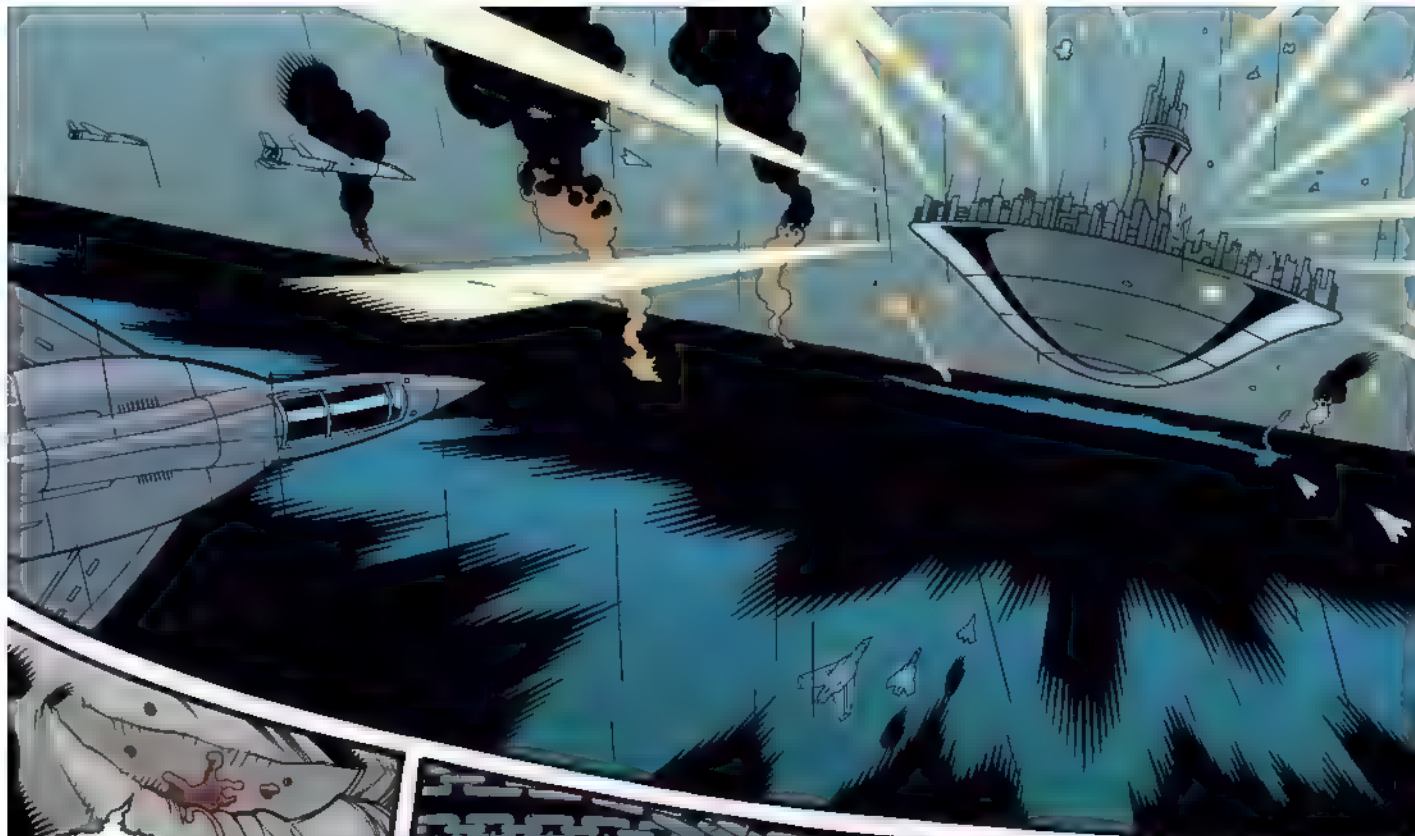
DIE,  
MARTIAN!  
DIE!

AUUUGGGHHH!

DE  
ALONE.

AND  
FAR FROM  
HOME.





URRRNN:

YOUR  
ACCOMPLICE  
BETRAYED YOU,  
GRODD.

AND THE  
JUSTICE LEAGUE IS  
HERE, THE REAL  
JUSTICE LEAGUE, WHICH  
MEANS **BLACK DEATH**  
FAILED YOU TOO.

IT'S  
OVER.

NOW BE  
GOOD OR I DO  
IRREPARABLE  
THINGS TO  
YOUR SPINAL  
COLUMN...



HOW?

HOW DID  
YOU--?

I HAD  
HELP.

WHEN YOU  
TRASHED WARMAKER'S  
JET-SUIT YOU OVER-  
LOOKED SCOTT SAWYER,  
IT'S DISEMBODIED  
PILOT.



BATMAN  
NBEN  
ARE!



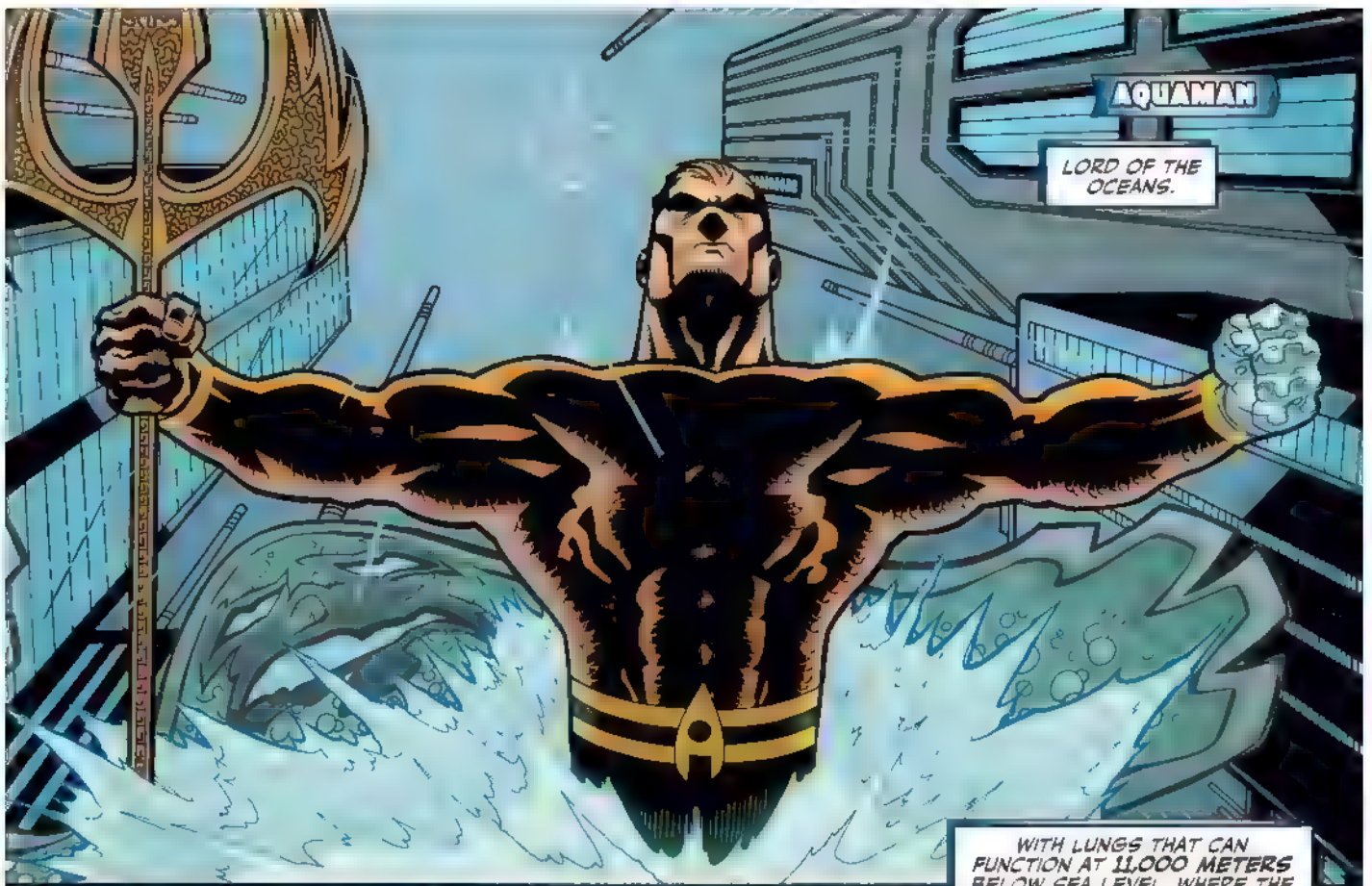
RELEASE  
OUR MASTER  
GRODD.

AND  
JOIN US,  
BATMAN.

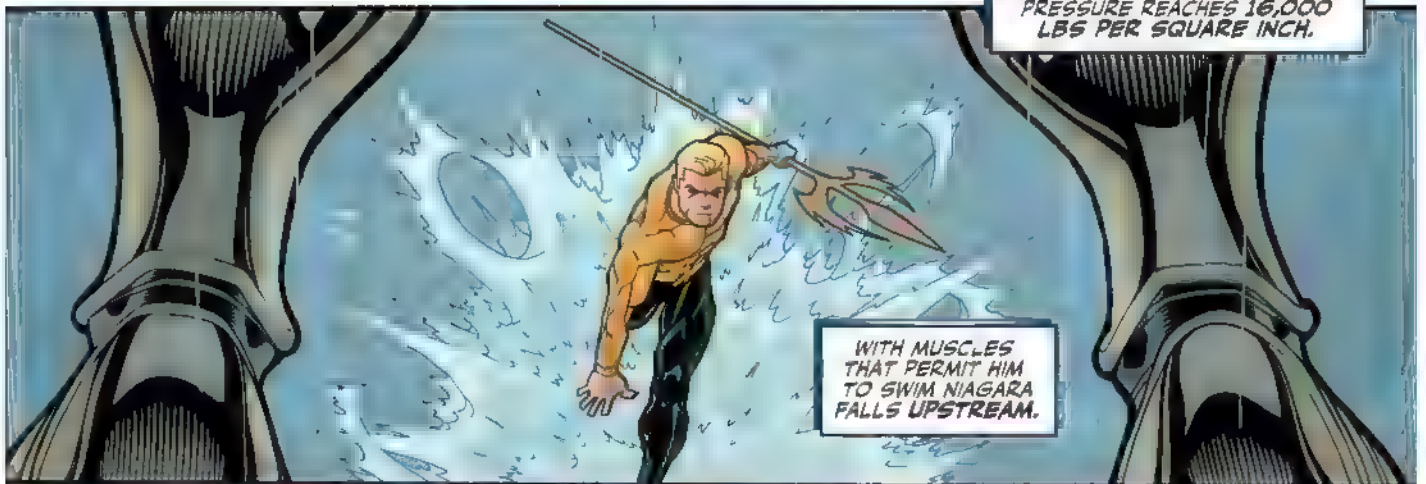


OR  
DIE.

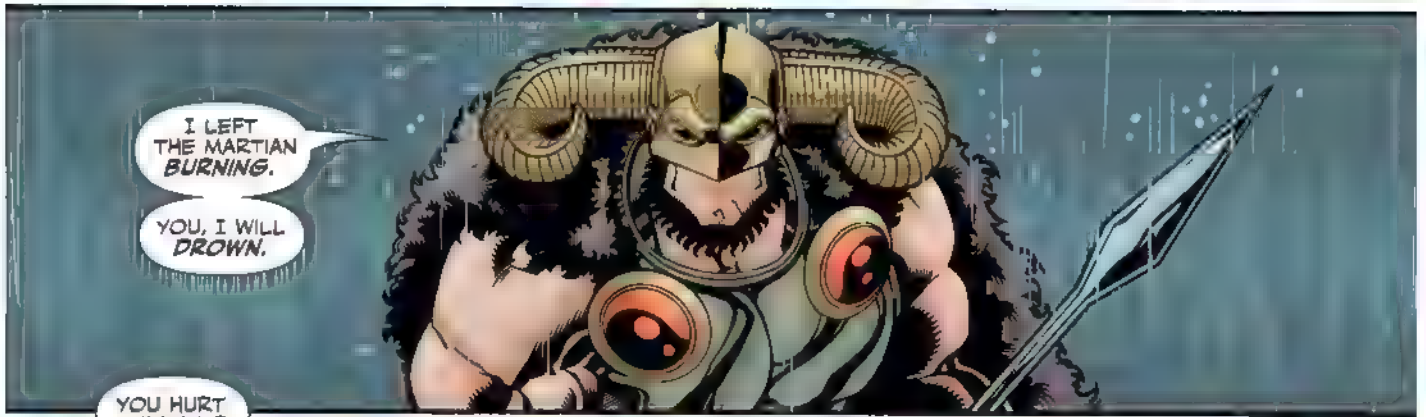




WITH LUNGS THAT CAN FUNCTION AT 11,000 METERS BELOW SEA LEVEL, WHERE THE PRESSURE REACHES 16,000 LBS PER SQUARE INCH.



WITH MUSCLES THAT PERMIT HIM TO SWIM NIAGARA FALLS UPSTREAM.



I LEFT THE MARTIAN BURNING.

YOU, I WILL DROWN.

YOU HURT J'ONN ?



THAT WAS STUPID.







GRRAWWW!

PLANE.  
TO ME!

SHIT!  
TASMANIAN  
DEVIL!

SHOW YOUR  
TRUE NATURE!  
STOP YOUR TEAM-  
MATES.

RAAAUUURRr!

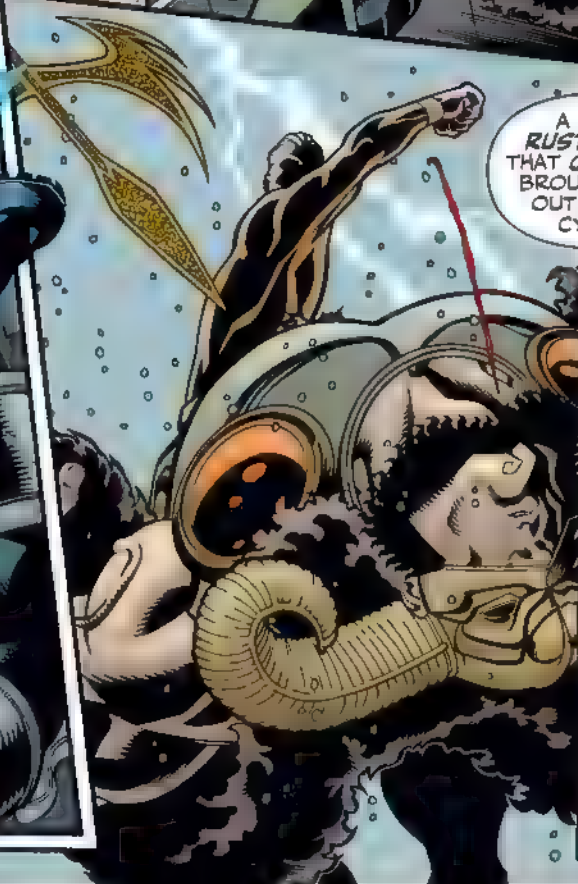
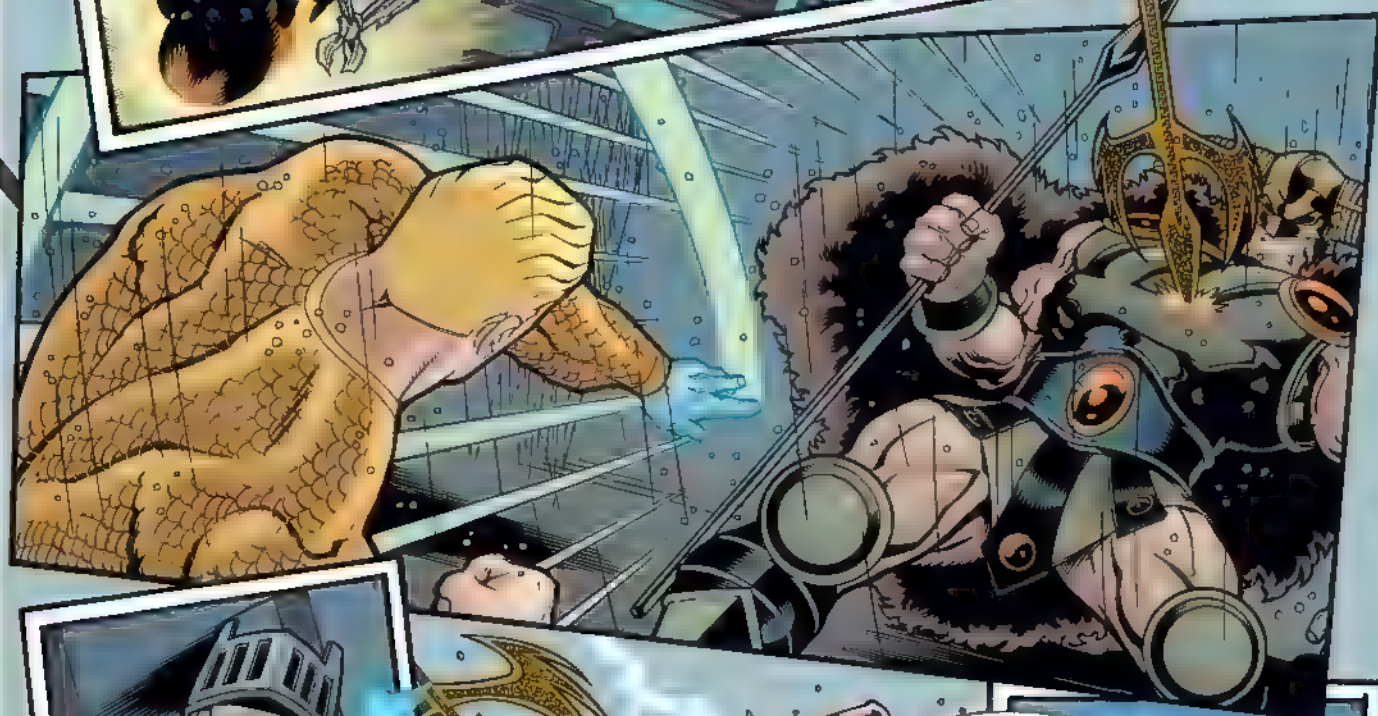
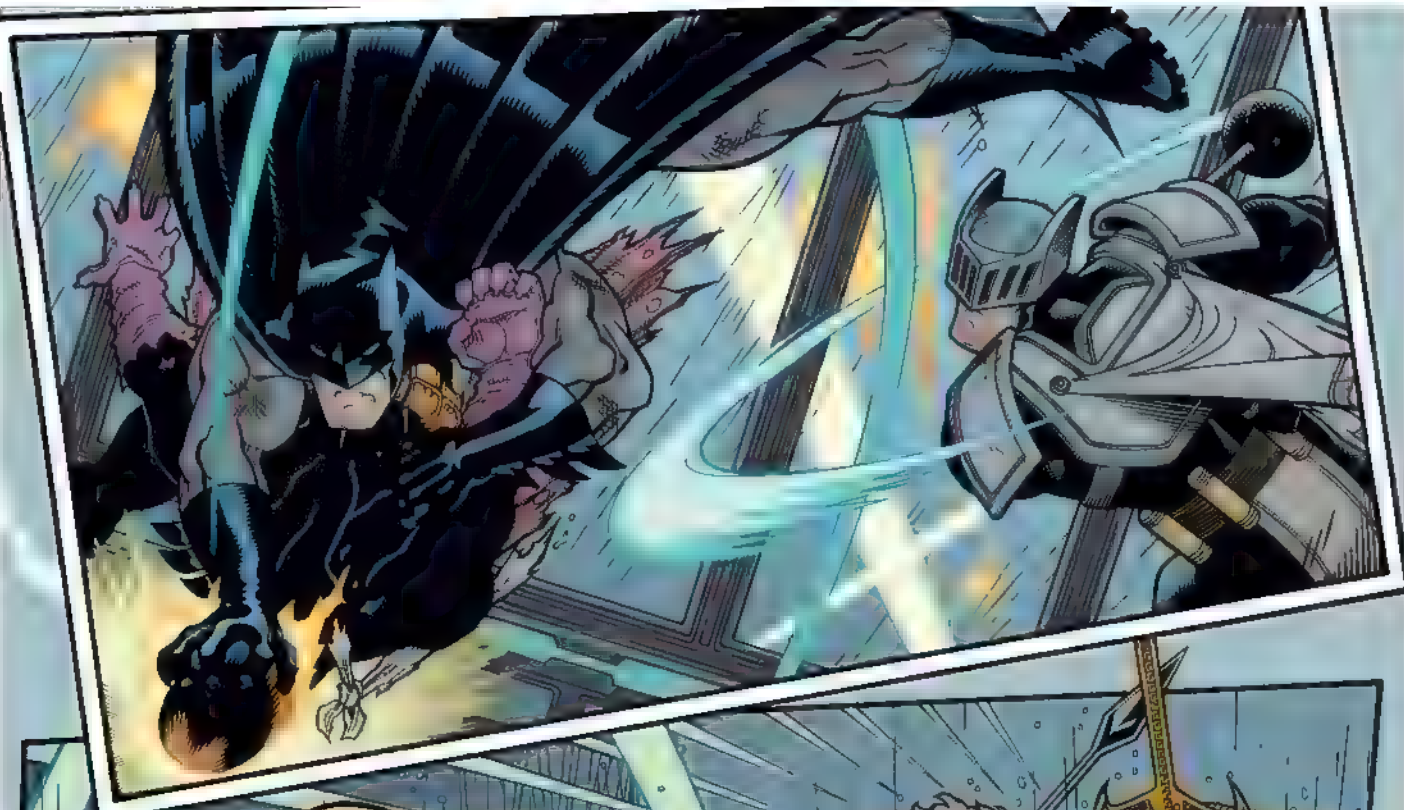
GOOD  
BOY.

DIANA OF  
THEMYSKIRA

WONDER  
WOMAN





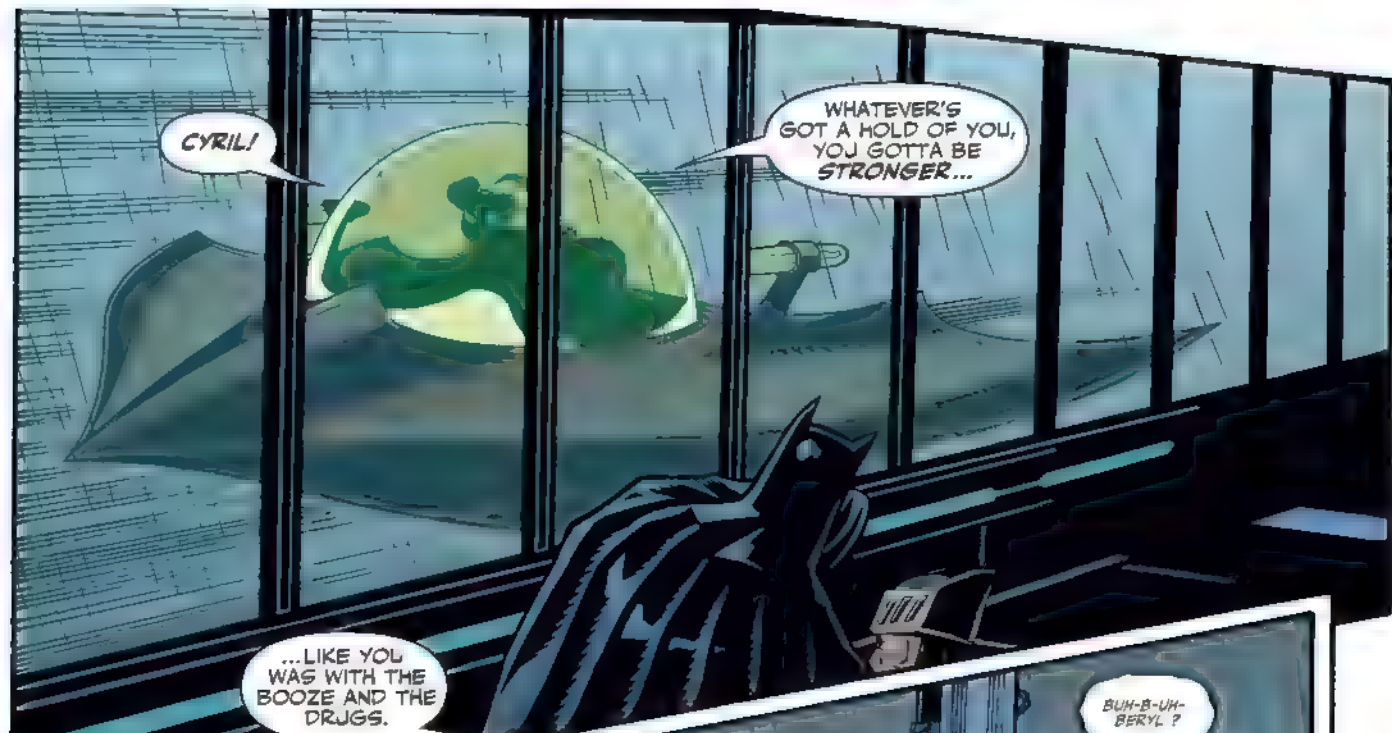


A LITTLE  
RUSTY SINCE  
THAT COMA THEY  
BROUGHT YOU  
OUT OF, HUH,  
CYRIL?



GGAHHH!





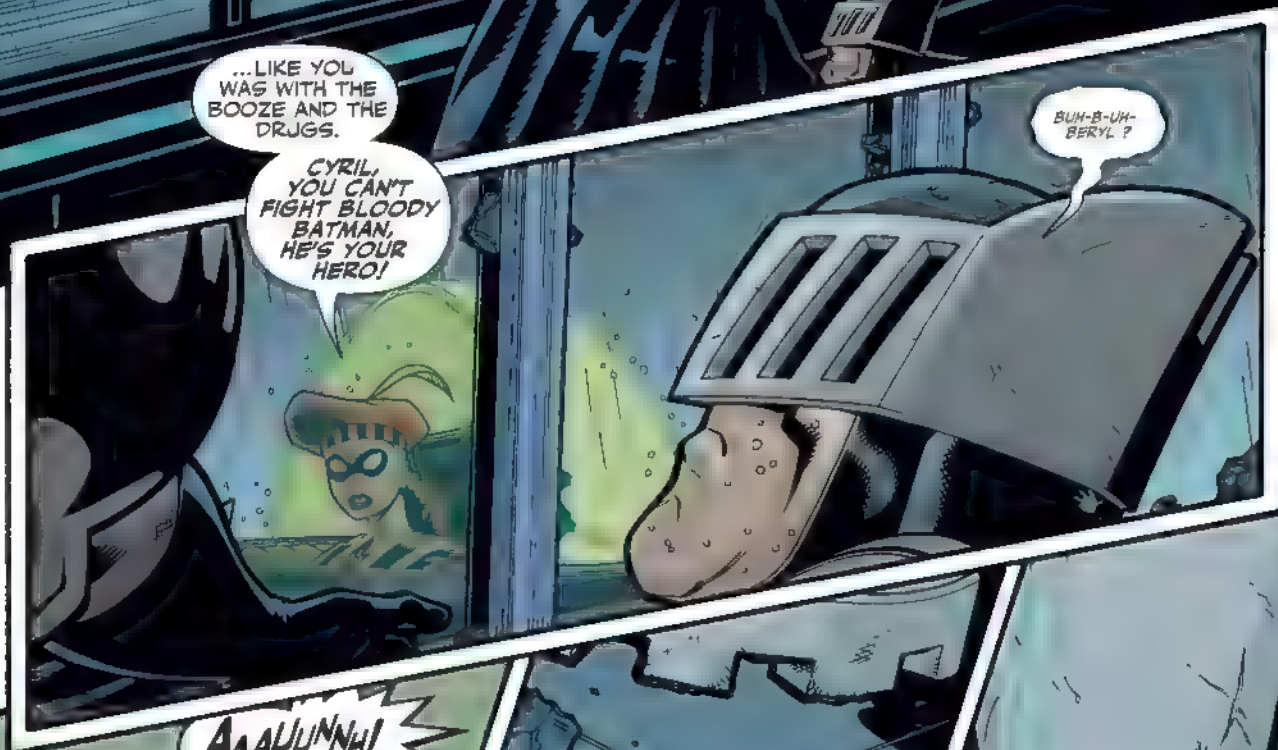
CYRIL!

WHATEVER'S  
GOT A HOLD OF YOU,  
YOU GOTTA BE  
STRONGER...

...LIKE YOU  
WAS WITH THE  
BOOZE AND THE  
DRUGS.

CYRIL,  
YOU CAN'T  
FIGHT BLOODY  
BATMAN.  
HE'S YOUR  
HERO!

BUN-B-UH-  
BERYL?



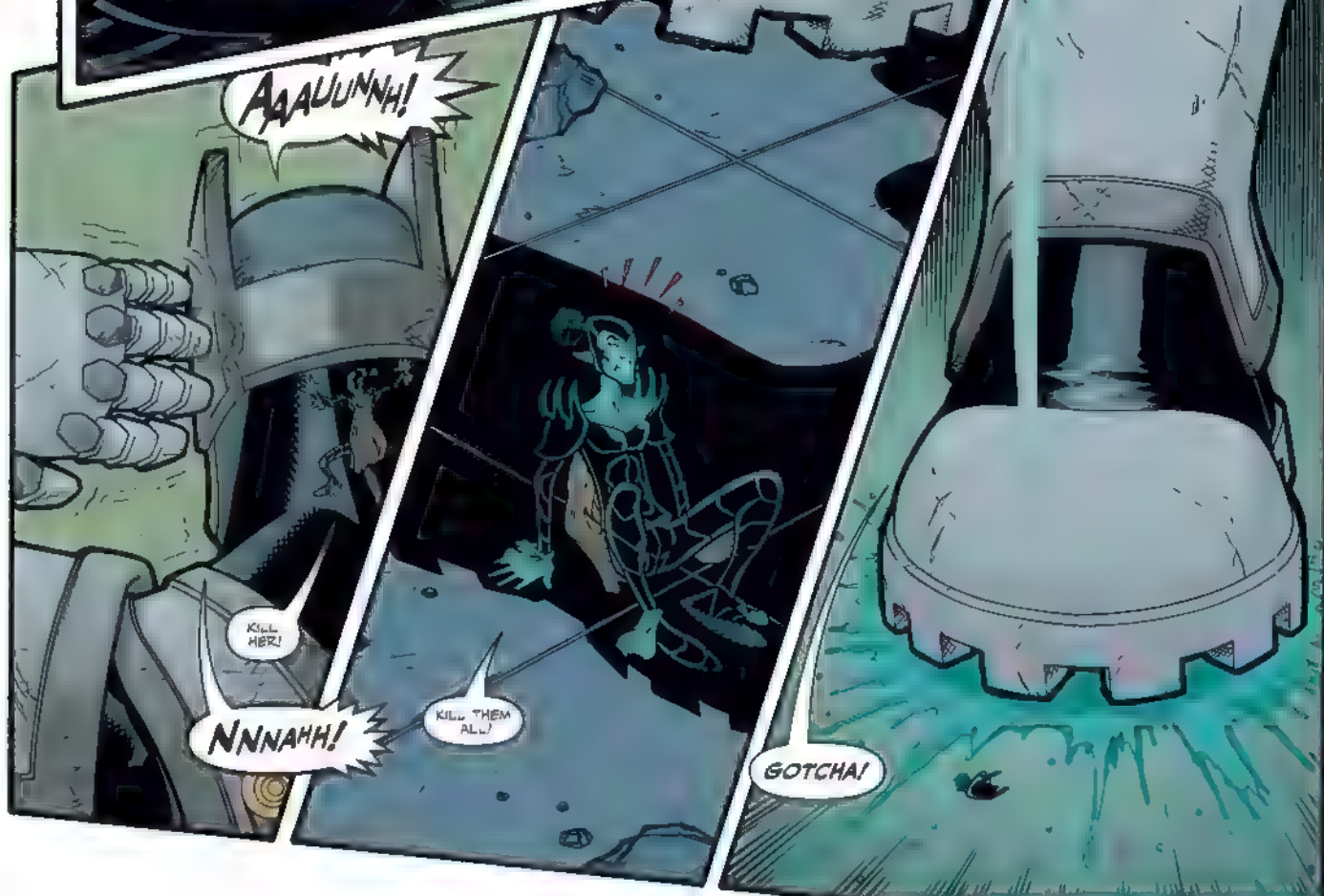
AAAUNNH!

KILL  
HER!

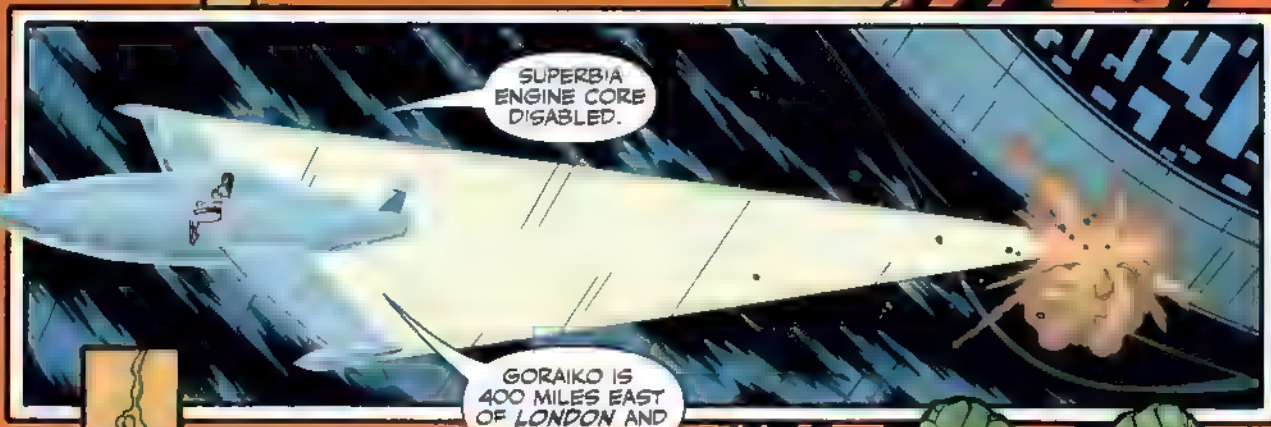
NNNAHH!

KILL THEM  
ALL!

GOTCHA!







SUPERBIA  
ENGINE CORE  
DISABLED.

GORAIKO IS  
400 MILES EAST  
OF LONDON AND  
CLOSING.

J'ONN  
J'ONZZ! WHERE  
ARE YOU?

MILLIONS  
OF LIVES MAY  
DEPEND ON  
YOU.

...FLAME...  
CANNOT TAKE  
FORM...

-UCCHSS!-

YOU MUST  
STOP GORAIKO  
AT ALL COSTS!

UNNH!

...MUST...  
I MUST...  
FORM...

WE NEED  
YOU!

NGGH...  
MUST--!

NGGHAUU!

J'ONN  
J'ONZZ  
RESPONDING.

I'M  
ON MY  
WAY.

HURRY,  
J'ONN!

HURRY!







**NEBULA  
MAN!**

WHAT  
ARE  
YOU?

ENOUGH...

BUT NOT  
AS SORRY AS  
YOU'RE GOING  
TO BE.

THE SEED  
OF EVIL BLACK  
DEATH PLANTED  
BORE FRUIT  
IN ME!

I AM  
NEH-BUH-LOH,  
THE ADULT  
UNIVERSE OF  
QWEWQ!

SO YOU  
GREW UP A TIME-  
TRAVELING  
BULLY AND CAME  
BACK?

I'M  
SORRY.

...I HAVE...  
HAVE SEEN  
ENOUGH...I HAVE  
TESTED MY  
PREY...

WHEN  
NEXT MY PEOPLE  
COME, IT WILL BE AS  
WHISPERS OF DEATH,  
UNSEEN...

GOODBYE,  
SUPERMAN...



NOTHING  
I CAN  
REACH!!!

MOONS OF  
MARS, IT HAS  
NO MIND!

In the blink  
of an eye

$$F = \frac{(9 \times 10^9) N \cdot m^2 / C^2 \times (1C)(1C)}{1m^2} = 9 \times 10^9 N$$

Something  
yields itself to--

AH--

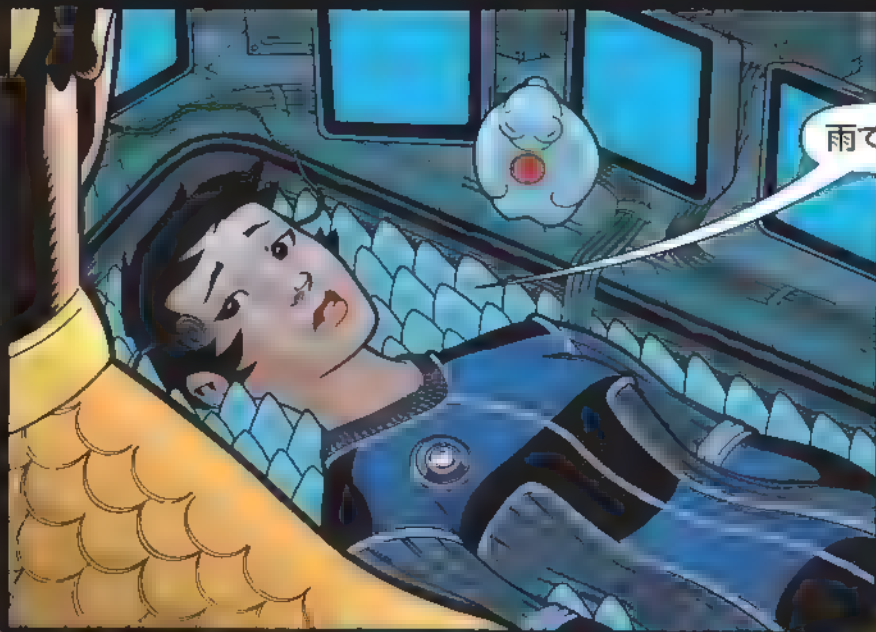
THANK  
YOU,  
AQUAMAN.

JUST IN  
TIME.

BANK

CARLIN



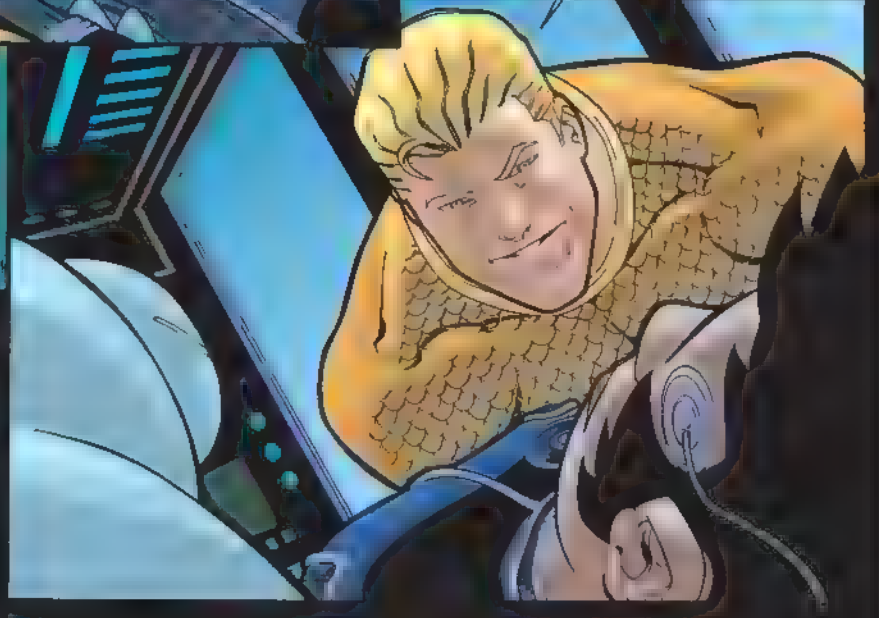


雨ですか?

私はゴライコーを見た。

いいえ、私だけです。

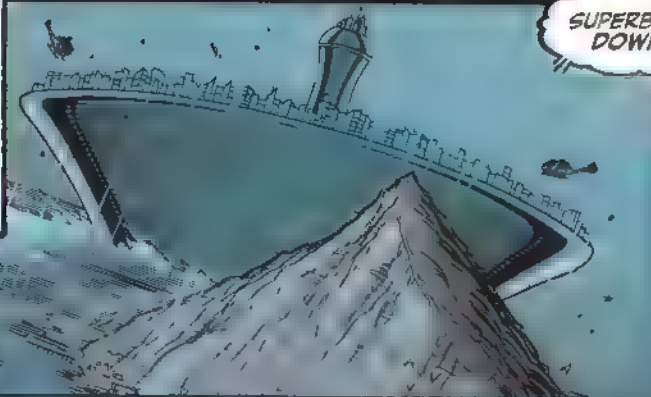
ア-サー-すべての海の王。



GONE...



SUPERBIA'S  
DOWN!

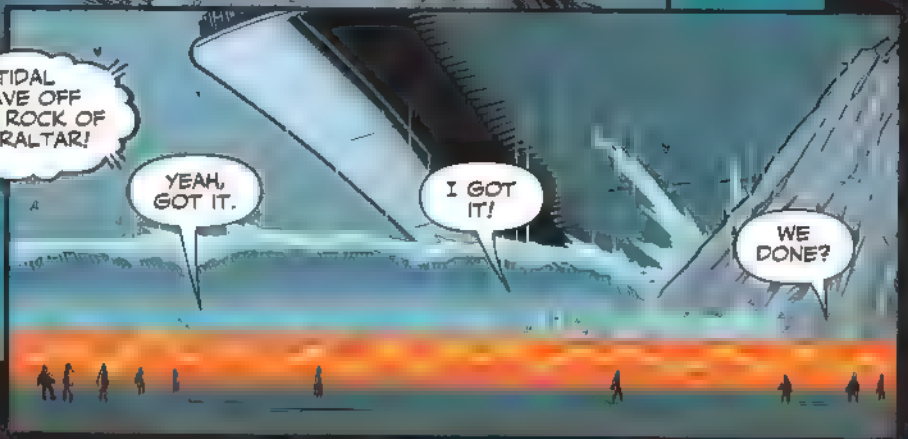


TIDAL  
WAVE OFF  
THE ROCK OF  
GIBRALTAR!

YEAH,  
GOT IT.

I GOT  
IT!

WE  
DONE?





YOU  
APES WERE LED  
ASTRAY BY A CUNNING  
MANIPULATOR.

A BUNCH OF  
DUMB *SLOGANS*, A  
FEW *BANANAS* AND YOU  
BELONG TO *ANYBODY*,  
IT SEEMS.

YOU OUGHT  
TO BE *ASHAMED* OF  
YOURSELVES.

YOU'LL  
BE RETURNED TO  
YOUR *OWN* PEOPLE  
FOR PUNISHMENT, IN  
*GORILLA CITY*.



GRODD.

IN LIGHT OF YOUR CRIMES,  
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY  
HAS ASKED US TO CONSIDER A TOTAL  
*DISEMBODIMENT* AND  
INCARCERATION PROCEDURE...

"PHANTOM ZONE"  
IMPRISONMENT.

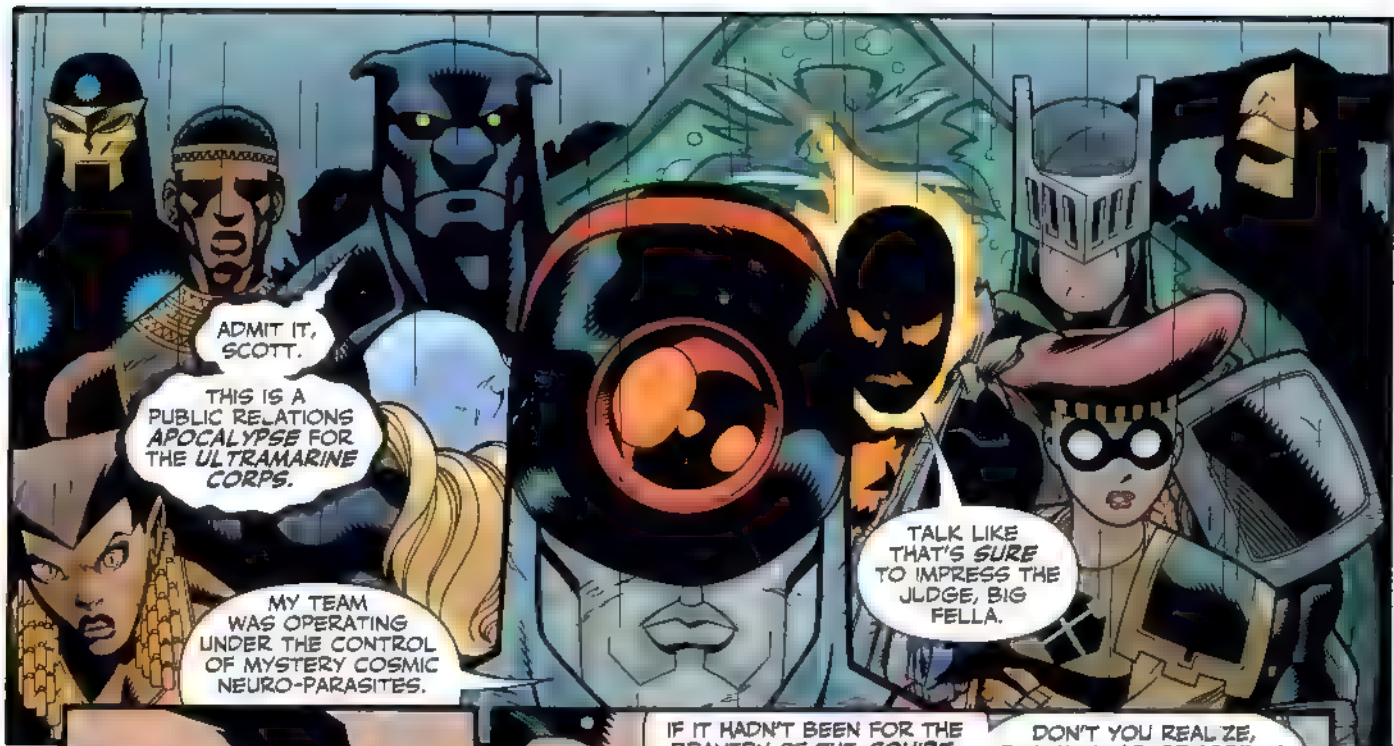


MINDD ALL  
JELLYYY.

AND  
AS FOR  
YOU--!





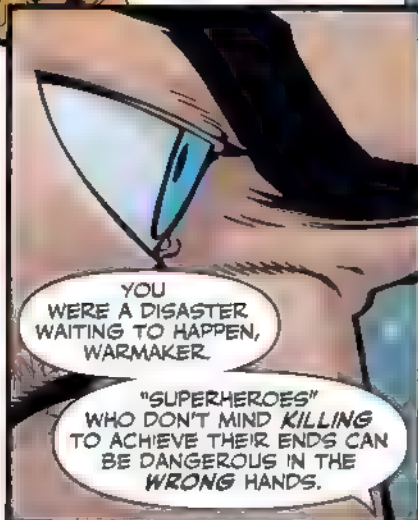


ADMIT IT,  
SCOTT.

THIS IS A  
PUBLIC RELATIONS  
APOCALYPSE FOR  
THE ULTRAMARINE  
CORPS.

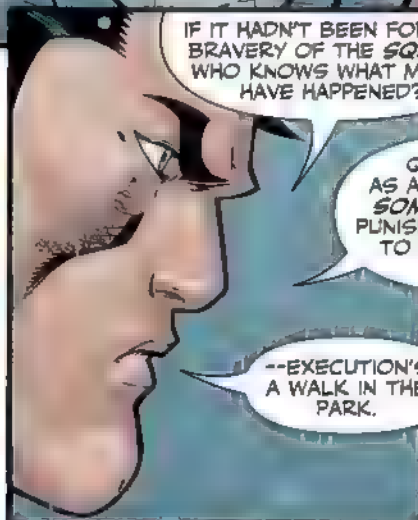
MY TEAM  
WAS OPERATING  
UNDER THE CONTROL  
OF MYSTERY COSMIC  
NEURO-PARASITES.

TALK LIKE  
THAT'S *SURE*  
TO IMPRESS THE  
JUDGE, BIG  
FELLA.



YOU  
WERE A DISASTER  
WAITING TO HAPPEN,  
WARMAKER.

"SUPERHEROES"  
WHO DON'T MIND *KILLING*  
TO ACHIEVE THEIR ENDS CAN  
BE DANGEROUS IN THE  
*WRONG* HANDS.



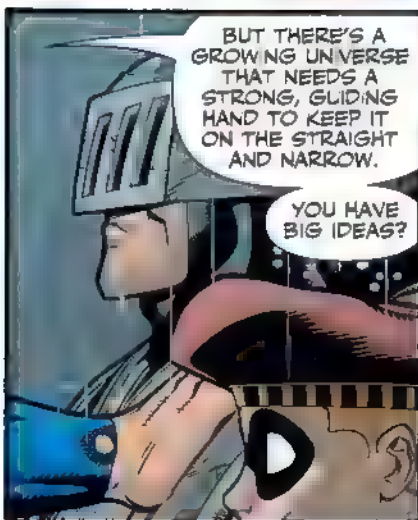
IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE  
BRAVERY OF THE *SQUIRE*,  
WHO KNOWS WHAT MIGHT  
HAVE HAPPENED?

DON'T YOU REAL ZE,  
DEATH IS *NO OBJECT* TO  
MOST OF THE ENEMIES  
WE DEAL WITH?

QUITE FRANKLY,  
AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO  
*SOME* OF THE SUPER-  
PUNISHMENTS WE'VE HAD  
TO DEVISE OVER THE  
YEARS--

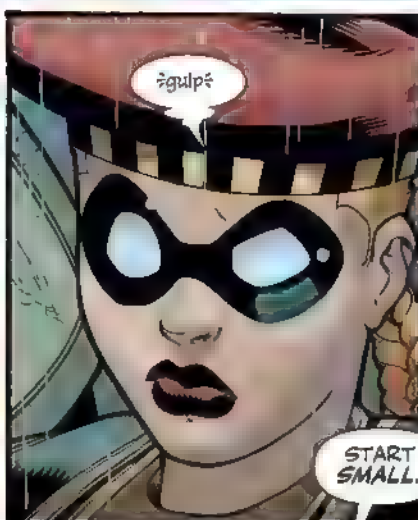
--EXECUTION'S  
A WALK IN THE  
PARK.

THESE "NO-NONSENSE"  
SOLUTIONS OF YOURS JUST  
DON'T HOLD WATER IN A COMPLEX  
WORLD OF JET-POWERED APES  
AND TIME TRAVEL.



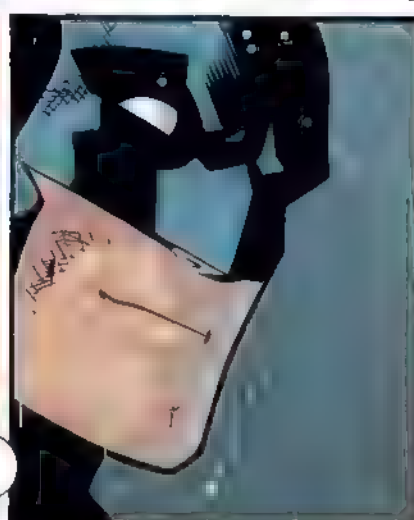
BUT THERE'S A  
GROWING UNIVERSE  
THAT NEEDS A  
STRONG, GUIDING  
HAND TO KEEP IT  
ON THE STRAIGHT  
AND NARROW.

YOU HAVE  
BIG IDEAS?



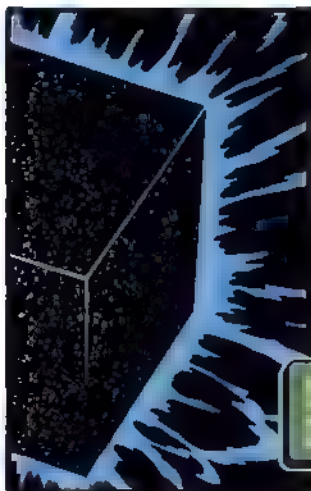
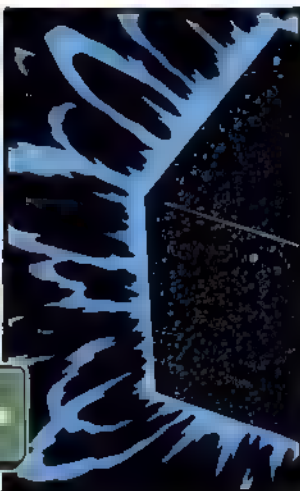
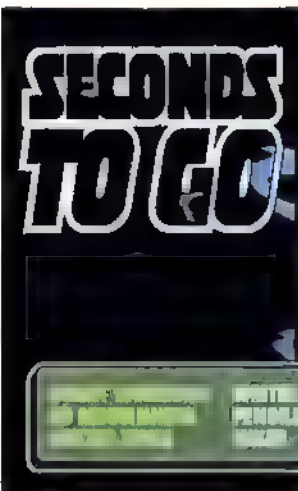
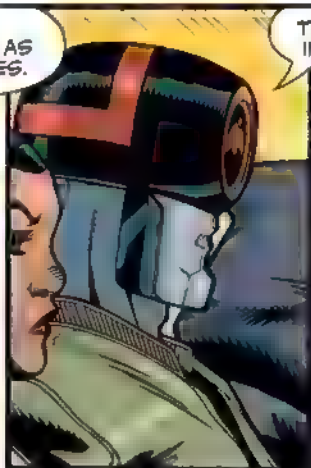
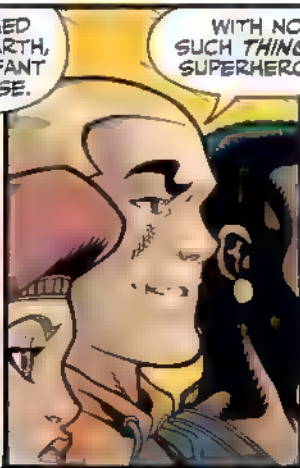
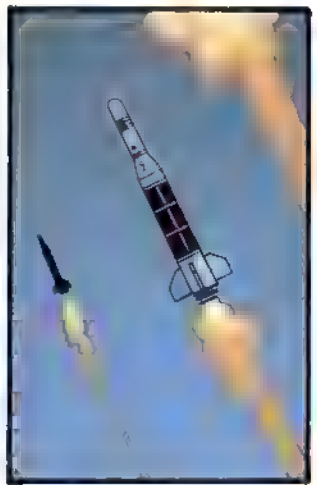
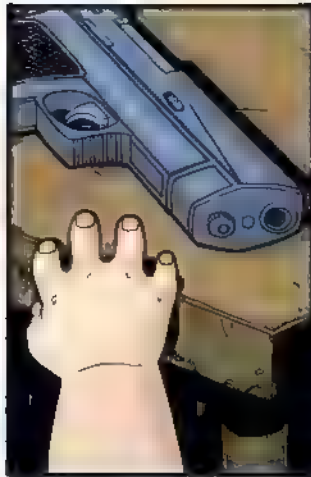
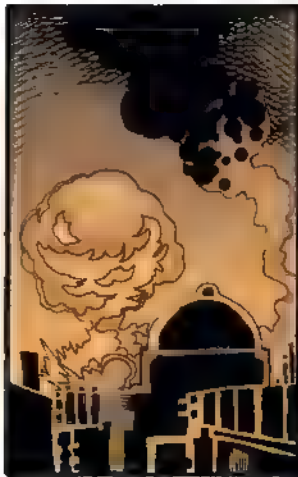
gulp

START  
SMALL.



**BOOM**





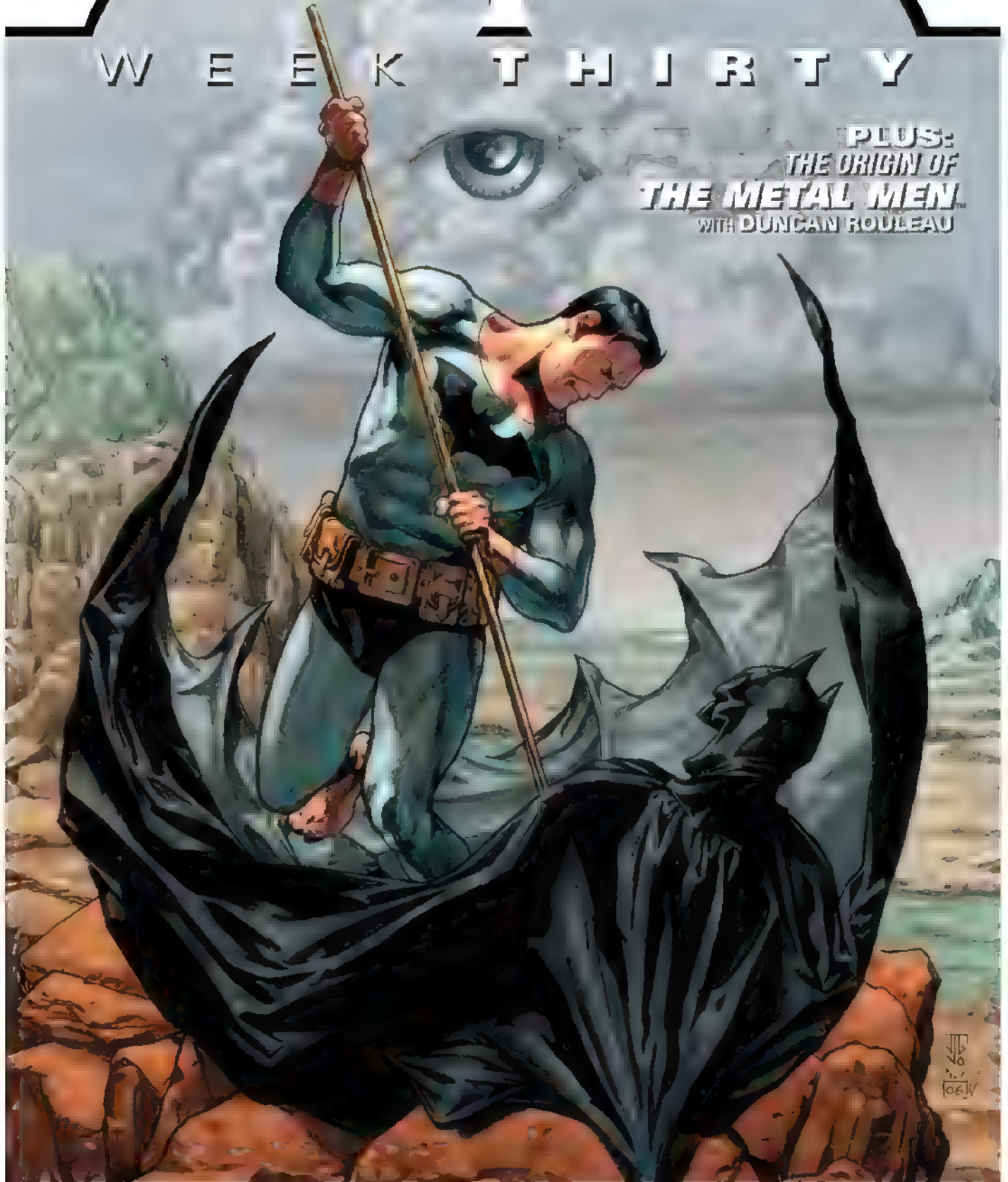




Nov 29, 2006

WEEK THIRTY

PLUS:  
THE ORIGIN OF  
**THE METAL MEN**  
WITH DUNCAN ROULEAU



you! Rain turns... Death of the Batman! Gotham Beast Wars continue!...I've got my eyes on you!... Death

[dcomics.com](http://dcomics.com)

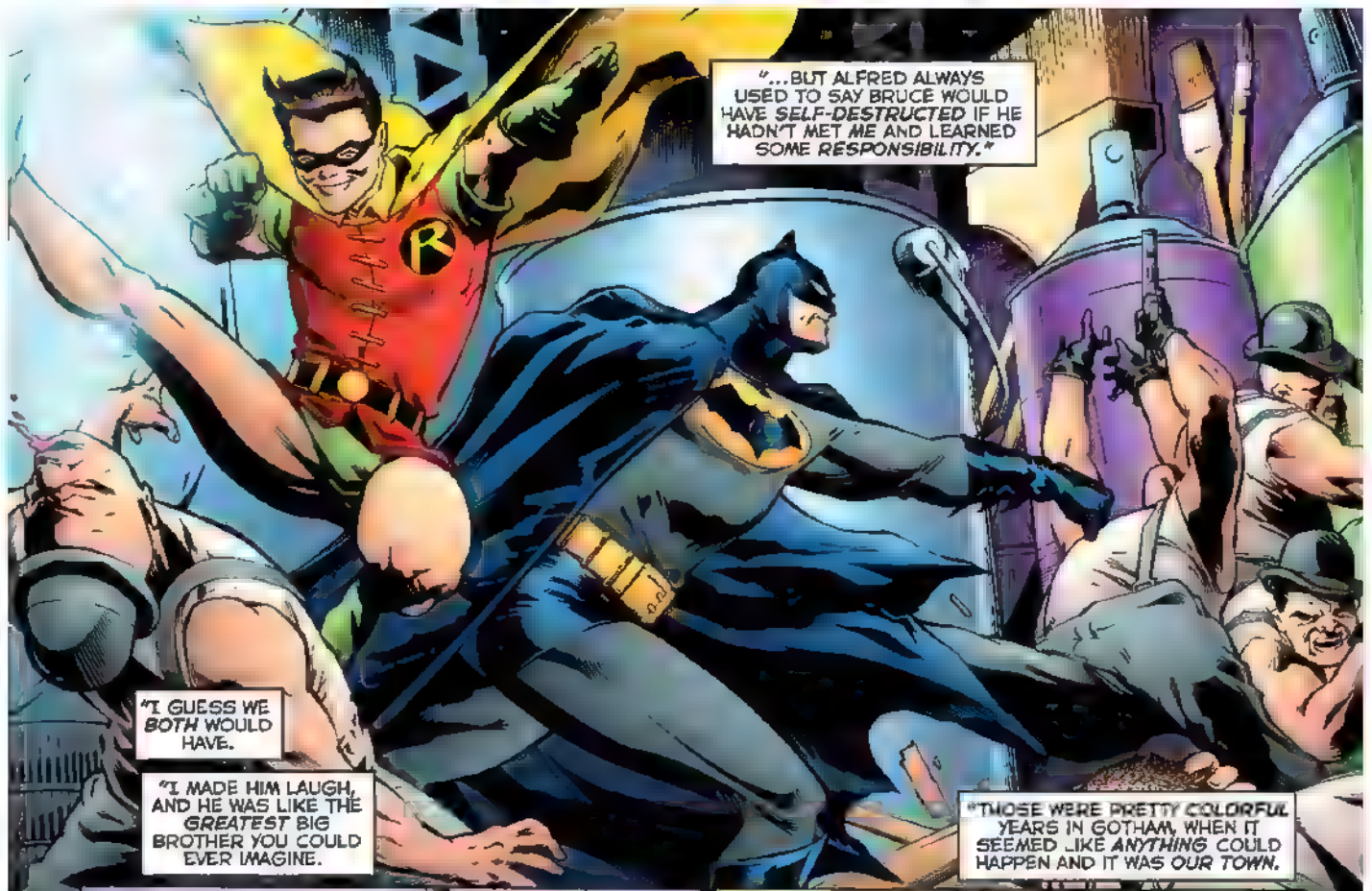


A full-page comic book illustration depicting a dramatic battle between Batman and a large, aggressive mobster. Batman, in his iconic blue and black suit with a yellow utility belt, is shown in a dynamic pose, lunging forward with his right arm extended. The mobster, wearing a grey trench coat and a dark hat, is recoiling in shock and pain, his mouth wide open in a scream. The background is a fiery, orange-hued cityscape with smoke rising from the buildings, suggesting a recent explosion or fire. The overall tone is intense and action-packed.

"EVERYTHING  
STARTED OUT  
SO WELL..."

**THE COMICS** 52





"...BUT ALFRED ALWAYS USED TO SAY BRUCE WOULD HAVE SELF-DESTRUCTED IF HE HADN'T MET ME AND LEARNED SOME RESPONSIBILITY."

"I GUESS WE BOTH WOULD HAVE."

"I MADE HIM LAUGH, AND HE WAS LIKE THE GREATEST BIG BROTHER YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE."

"THOSE WERE PRETTY COLORFUL YEARS IN GOTHAM, WHEN IT SEEMED LIKE ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN AND IT WAS OUR TOWN."



"THE JOKER GAVE UP BEING A MURDERER FOR A WHILE AND THERE WAS JUST THIS CRAZY, BRILLIANT CLOWN RUNNING AROUND."

"I USED TO FEEL AS IF THOSE DAYS WOULD NEVER END."



"THEN, LITTLE BY LITTLE, EVERYTHING HE'D BUILT STARTED TO CRUMBLE."

"NOBODY NOTICED AT FIRST--HE'S THE BATMAN, THE SCARIEST GUY ON THE PLANET."

"NONE OF US EVER WANTS TO THINK OF HIM HAVING MOMENTS OF DOUBT OR FEAR."

"WE DON'T LET HIM."



"BUT WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THESE LAST FEW YEARS SINCE JASON BECAME THE SECOND ROBIN--"



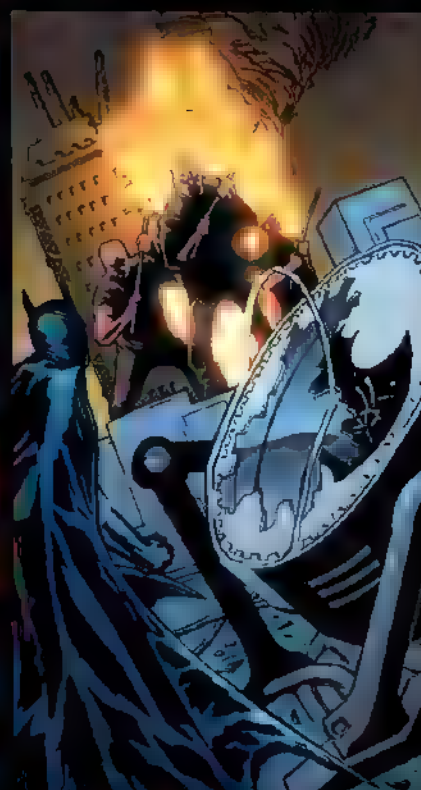
"WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED--"

"IT'S TOO MUCH FOR ANY MAN."

"EVEN THE STRONGEST."



**WRITTEN BY GEOFF JOHNS, GRANT MORRISON, GREG RUCKA, MARK WAID**



**ART BREAKDOWNS BY KEITH GIFFEN • PENCILS BY JOE BENNETT  
INKS BY JOE BENNETT & RUY JOSE • COLORS BY DAVID BARON • LETTERS BY PHIL BALSAMAN**



"HE LOST IT."

"IN THE END HE  
JUST LOST IT."

**COVER BY J.G. JONES & ALEX SINCLAIR • ASSISTANT EDITOR - HARVEY RICHARDS  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR - JEANINE SCHAEFER • EDITORS - STEPHEN WACKER & MICHAEL SIGLAIN**



AND THAT'S  
WHAT THIS IS ALL  
ABOUT.

WHY ELSE ARE  
WE HERE, PATIENTLY  
RECREATING THE  
JOURNEY THAT TURNED  
BRUCE WAYNE INTO  
BATMAN?

LOOK, I  
FIGURED ALL  
THIS OUT  
TOO.

IT'S JUST,  
WHY COULDN'T  
HE TELL US?

Week 30, Day 1







# DARK KNIGHT DOWN





THIS IS WAY TOO BIG TO IGNORE.

THESE GUYS MUST HAVE FLOWN IN FROM GOTHAM RIGHT AFTER HE STRUCK FOR THE DESERT.

WE WENT TOWARDS THE EMPTY QUARTER, BLACK LIKE A SHADOW.

HAVE YOU SEEN WHAT'S IN THESE CRATES?



THIS STUFF COULD START WORLD WARS 3, 4 AND 5.



SO WHAT'S THE DEAL?

WHO SET YOU UP FLYING AIR APOCALYPSE OUT OF GOTHAM CITY?

TALK!

**KRUNCH**

CAIN OF THE ROCK AND THE RAGE MAKER OF MARTYRS, GRANT ME SWIFT... SWIFT... RELEASE...

HEY!

HE JUST BIT DOWN ON A POISON CAPSULE.



WE COME LOOKING FOR BATMAN, WE FIND THIS.

WE WALK AWAY FOR HALF A YEAR AND INTERGANG'S RUNNING THE STREETS OF GOTHAM!

THE BIGGEST ORGANIZED CRIME NETWORK ON THE PLANET!









# BRUCE WAYNNNE

Week 30, Day 3













IF YOU  
FLINCH.

YOU  
WILL NOT  
SURVIVE.

DO IT.

IF YOU  
SHUDDER.

BRUCE!

WRRNNNN

BRUCE?

YOU  
LOOK LIKE  
YOU NEED  
A HAND.

THE TEN-  
EYED MEN KILL  
DEMONS,  
TIM.

I ASKED  
THEM TO KILL  
MINE.

I ASKED THEM TO  
CUT OUT ALL THE DARK,  
FEARFUL, PARANOID  
URGES I'VE ALLOWED  
TO CORRUPT MY LIFE...  
AND THEY DID.

IT'S  
OVER.

BATMAN  
IS GONE.





Mar 28, 2007

WEEK FORTY-SEVEN

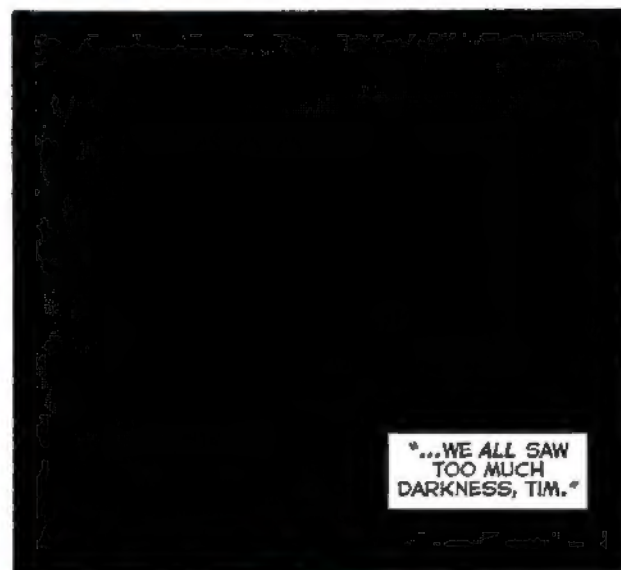


**PLUS:**  
**THE ORIGIN OF THE**  
**TEEN TITANS**  
WITH KARL KERSCHL

Kanon-Oolong la... Regrouping... Nando Pabel... Animal Man takes flight... Bible Studios with Kane... Regro



## Nanda Parbat



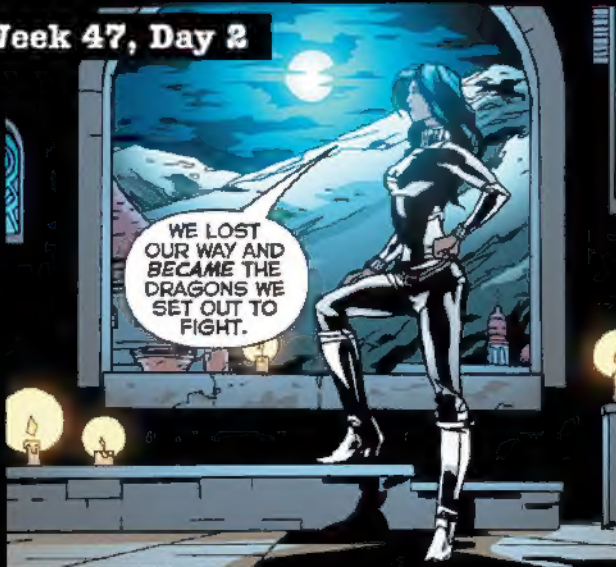
\*...WE ALL SAW  
TOO MUCH  
DARKNESS, TIM.\*

**WRITTEN BY** GEOFF JOHNS, GRANT MORRISON, GREG RUCKA, MARK WAID  
**ART BREAKDOWNS BY** KEITH GIFFEN • **PENCILS BY** GIUSEPPE CAMUNCOLI • **INKS BY** LORENZO RUGGIERO  
**COLORS BY** PETE PANTAZIS • **LETTERS BY** ROB LEIGH • **COVER BY** J.G. JONES & ALEX SINCLAIR • **SPECIAL THANKS TO** STEFANO LANDINI  
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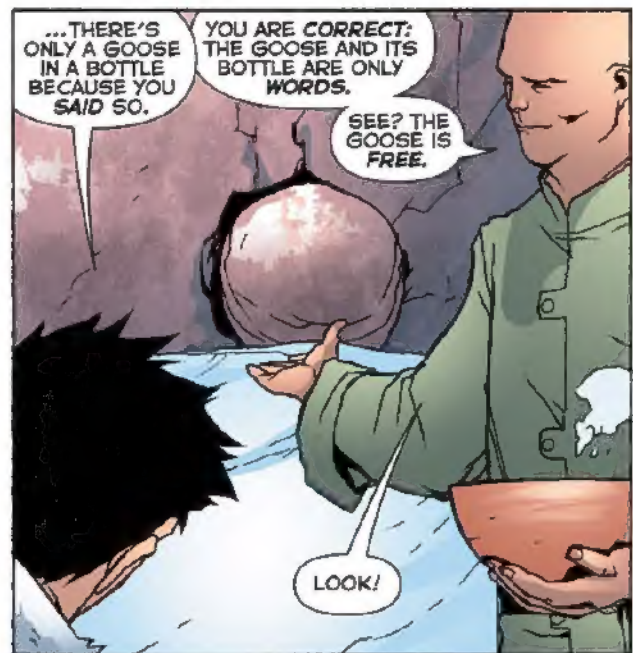


# REVELATIONS

Week 47, Day 2











**NEXT IN**

